

Kensington & Chelsea News

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BUSES TO COMBAT CONGESTION



Six-year-old Selvi Krishna got her moment to shine when she was invited to help Santa turn on the Christmas lights in Chelsea's Duke of York Square - see page 3

'Unsustainable' cost of emergency housing

RIISING TIDE OF HOMELESSNESS AND LACK OF SUITABLE HOMES IS CAUSING A CRIPPLING DILEMMA FOR COUNCIL

BY GEOFF BAKER
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THE soaring price of Kensington and Chelsea's obligation to care for the needy has cost the council more than £90 million in housing the homeless over the past four years.

And this year's bill for emergency housing will add another £31 million on top of that.

By the end of the financial

year, the council will have spent £124,400,000 since 2012 on providing temporary accommodation for families of the royal borough.

Kensington and Chelsea Council's bill for looking after the homeless has almost doubled in five years and now local authority chiefs have warned that the spiralling cost can't go on.

Figures released by the council reveal the staggering cost of pro-

viding shelter for the homeless.

In 2012/13 the council spent £17,784,000 providing temporary accommodation for 1,228 families.

In 2013/14, the price shot up £22,242,000 to home 1,452 and rose again in 2014/15 when £25,566,000 was spent housing 1,579, and again in 2015/16 when 1,609 families were accommodated at a cost of £27,500,000.

The council's projected spend for 2016/17 is £31,308,000 to look after 1,678 households.

The council has a statutory duty to provide temporary accommodation to homeless applicants in certain circumstances, this is governed by law and the council can do nothing about it. Priority for local temporary accommodation is given to:

TURN to page 3

Doctors 'lacking training'

DOCTORS and nurses in West London are not receiving adequate training to enable them to treat patients with mental-health problems, an investigation has revealed.

Little more than half of trainee GPs in West London opted for a placement in mental health last year. And four out of five practice nurses said they felt ill-equipped to help patients with a mental illness. The findings were revealed in a report by Mind, England's leading mental-health charity. It said the lack of expertise was leading to situations where practising professionals were unprepared to help some of their most vulnerable patients.

London Weekly News, with the support of its sister title the South London Press, is challenging the stigma around mental health as part of the *Change Is Possible* campaign. The appeal aims to put a stop to the stereotypes and misconceptions that surround mental illness while raising money for Mind services in London. You can support our campaign by donating online at givey.com/changeispossible.

See Page 7 for more on the campaign.



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Victorian Christmas at palace – page 10

Musical aiming to tackle stigma over mental health

DEPRESSION. Anxiety. Suicide. This is not the sort of subject matter you'd expect from your everyday musical. We are more used to seeing larger-than-life characters that triumph over adversity than those who succumb to it.

But a new production in the West End is aiming to change all that, putting mental health in the spotlight for the first time.

Arnoud Breitbarth and Chris Czornyj are the writers behind *Catch Me*, which is currently enjoying a run at the Arts Theatre in Great Newport Street.

The show tackles the subject of suicide from the perspective of five friends, who gather on the evening before a funeral.

Dean, a loving brother, friend and fiancée, has suddenly and unexpectedly taken his own life.

Each of the five must try to come to terms with the loss – and reassess their own relationships in the process.

Arnoud, 35, and Chris, 25, who penned every line, including music and lyrics, say the message is simple.

"We must all learn to talk. Do not be afraid to open up and ask for help if you need it," says Arnoud, who lives in Maida Vale.

"All the characters are struggling with actually being able to tell their friends or other half what they really want. Most of them fit a specific type and they cannot really break out of these locks."

Chris, from Maidenhead, says: "It's a taboo subject, it's painful to talk about it let alone sing about it. But that's what we did, we put it in a musical – and *Catch Me* is the result."

Born in the Netherlands, Arnoud spent 14 years working as a journalist for the nation's biggest morning newspaper, *De Telegraaf*.

But it is only since moving to the UK six years ago that he has been able to pursue his dream of writing musicals.

Catch Me is his first professional production, having worked on a student project in Leeds this year.

Chris Czornyj, left, and Arnoud Breitbarth are the men behind new musical *Catch Me*

He says the story was partly inspired by his own decision to break away from the career that was "expected" of him.

"It took a lot of guts for me to leave my job and go and write musicals, it took a lot of courage to take that step," he explains. "It was not necessarily what people expected of me."

While it's not a subject often addressed in public, suicide is the single biggest killer of men under the age of 45. More than 4,500 men take their own life in Britain every year, according to male suicide charity the Campaign Against Living Miserably.

Arnoud and Chris have experi-

enced suicide in their close friendship circles and were determined to bring the subject to life in musical theatre.

"One reason I love theatre so much more than film and television is that it isn't just something happening on a screen in front of you. It draws you into the world," says Chris.

"And being in such a great, intimate space, you can't help but be drawn into these characters and this story."

It has taken five years to get the show from page to stage – but casting and rehearsals have been hurried along in the last few weeks after a slot became avail-

able at Westminster's Arts Theatre.

"We have both been affected by mental health in one way or another," says Arnoud. "It was something we felt very passionate about. We thought 'How can we make that into a show without being preachy or judgemental? How can we raise awareness in a way that makes people think about the subject?'"

While suicide has featured from time to time in musical theatre over the years, Arnoud says this is the first production that tackles the subject full-on.

"It's really about what happens after a suicide. The most prevalent questions are always 'Why?', 'How?' and 'Is there something I could have done or should have done?'"

"But this piece is all about the fact that there is not really an answer to that question. It's not just a show about mental health. It's about human relationships and how we get along with friends."

Chris says: "We're hoping to break down stigma around mental health and let people consider things they wouldn't have otherwise. Our director said that *Catch Me* made her think about her own life – that's what we're trying to achieve."

Catch Me runs at the Arts Theatre in Great Newport Street until December 3. For more about suicide, turn to page 7 for the latest on the *London Weekly News* mental-health campaign *Change Is Possible*.

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Conservatives' attitudes to democratic debate

AN ALTERNATIVE VIEW
by Councillor Robert Atkinson

THE leader of the council likes to engage with the public – and his “Ask Nick” forays into different parts of the borough are an admirable initiative.

But whatever merit is earned by the leader in subjecting himself to public scrutiny when away from the town hall is lost by the systematic dismantling of democracy within the council.

Little noticed by the public, (a public consultation on which the changes were based elicited not a single response), the Tory majority in RBKC have forced through changes which cut the number of full council meetings per year from seven to five (and one of these, it now emerges, is to take the form of a public lecture and another is given over entirely to ceremonial when we change mayors and move round committees).

The reduction in council meetings has left a gap in the summer of 16 weeks with no meeting of the full council for debate. And by turning the December meeting into a public lecture, with outside speakers, on a topic selected by the ruling group without consultation, there will now be a further 14-week gap when the council cannot be held to account in public by elected members. This may well be convenient for the council

leadership and officers but it is not good for democratic debate and accountability.

Nor can it be argued that there is a shortage of issues that deserve to be aired. In the summer there was no opportunity to consider the consequences of the Brexit vote for the 50 per cent of borough residents born abroad, and over the Christmas period there will be no opportunity to hold the cabinet to account for their decision to endorse the NHS transformation and sustainability proposals, rejected by neighbouring boroughs and about which our own health scrutiny committee has grave doubts. But such is the iron grip that the Tory leadership now seek to maintain over council meetings that the Labour health spokesman was given only two minutes at the October meeting to try to raise the alarm.

Not only have “real” council meetings been reduced to three per year (plus a set-piece budget debate) but the length of the meetings has been cut from three hours to two. This is important because it was in the last hour that the opposition parties had an opportunity to move discussion away from carefully choreographed formal business that has already been trawled over in committee and introduce topical and important matters of business that the ruling party are not anxious to discuss. It's the items of business

that ruling groups or boards do not wish to talk about that are important, not pre-digested formal reports. And even with the formal agendas, discussion was recently cut short when it was decided that where a report does not contain a proposed decision it will not be subject to debate.

No doubt the council will reply that they have now introduced a question-and-answer session to hold cabinet members to account. But even here the questions have to be submitted nine days in advance. This allows for council officers to prepare the answer for the cabinet member to then read out, rather than be required to be masters of their brief and to think on their feet. No cut and thrust of a real question time for RBKC. The result is more reminiscent of the Tadjikistan Duma than of the “Mother of Parliaments”.

So although Nick Paget Brown remains personally approachable he appears to lack respect for representative democracy. What can he be frightened of?

Cllr Robert Atkinson – Labour Group leader, RBKC



Notting Hill school is country's No 1

HIGH praise has come for Notting Hill's Fox Primary School after it was named *The Sunday Times* State Primary School of the Year and was hailed for its “astonishing” success rate.

The school was named the very best in England in the new edition of *The Sunday Times Schools Guide – Parent Power*.

The definitive school rankings, now in their 24th year of publication, identify the highest-achieving primary schools in England through a survey of their results in the annual SATs taken by 11-year-olds.

Last year 93 per cent of the children at Fox reached level five in reading, writing and maths, making it “the stand-out school in the country”.

For the first time, *Parent Power* uses a three-year analysis of SATs outcomes in England, covering 2013, 2014 and 2015, at level five, the level of attainment considered to be that of a 13-year-old.

The proportion of children achieving level five in all of reading, writing and mathematics each year was added together to produce a score out of 300 for each primary school in England.

Fox Primary finished nearly 30 points ahead of the school in second place in the unique *Sunday Times* rankings, Park Road Sale Primary School, in Sale, Greater Manchester.

“At Fox, 73 per cent of children reached level five in reading, writing and maths in 2013, rising to 86 per cent in 2014 and an astonishing 93 per cent in 2015,” said Alastair McCall, editor of *The Sunday Times Schools Guide*.

“At Park Road Primary the proportions were 64 per cent, 78 per cent and 81 per cent respectively, comfortably good enough for second place but a long way short of the level achieved in the Notting Hill school.”

The school is currently undergoing a major rebuild with the children spread across a number of sites within two miles of each other, but they will soon reunite in one location, complete with a rooftop allotment.

Fox School offers much more than excellent academic standards. Children grow their own food and keep bees and sell honey. The school has even produced its own cookbook.

There is also a strong emphasis on sport and PE; pupils have represented Kensington and Chelsea in the London Youth Games in basketball, tag rugby and hockey. The school is also a hotbed of table-tennis talent and its girls team were crowned national champions in 2014-15.

Councillor Emma Will, Kensington and Chelsea's cabinet member for education, said: “We are incredibly proud of all our primary schools. Therefore, it is very pleasing to see Fox Primary at the top of this important table.”

“Clearly when it comes to ensuring pupils receive a first-rate education, Fox excels. But it does so much more to nurture and develop children which is why it is thoroughly deserving of this accolade.”

Fox School's mission statement is “to create a safe, secure and sustainable learning environment where children feel valued and happy”.

It explains: “Children are encouraged, praised and taught to be responsible citizens and take an active role in their community. Through personal, social and health education and collective assemblies, children learn about the importance of moral values such as honesty, respect, tolerance, sincerity, trust and personal responsibility.”

“We prepare our children for life in a modern democratic society. We actively celebrate diversity and ensure equality of opportunity.”

Around 60 per cent of the children go on to Holland Park School, Chelsea Academy or the high-achieving Catholic secondary schools, The Oratory and Cardinal Vaughan. The remaining 40 per cent go into the independent sector.

The success of Fox Primary is not isolated among the capital's primary schools, which take six of the top 10 places in the new *Parent Power* rankings.

NEWS FROM NICK



Leader of Kensington and Chelsea council, Nick Paget-Brown, reflects on the changing nature of political debate

Slogans and jibes have become new face of politics

Well we've had more than a week to get used to the idea of President Trump. As we move into an era of government by sound-bite and rule by offensive comment, where decision makers do battle with anonymous trolls and attention spans can't be sustained for more than a minute or two, perhaps he is the perfect embodiment of the new age.

His success suggests that carefully nuanced argument needs to make way for slogans and jibes which can be expressed in no more than 140 characters on Twitter.

Trump's successful campaign was based on building a wall, banning Muslims from entering the USA, threatening to jail his main opponent, mocking disability and defending a lifetime of making lewd and dismissive remarks about women. Perhaps the lowest point was when candidate Trump, who had never seen military service himself, because of bone spurs in his feet, set about offending the grieving parents of US servicemen, Humayun Khan.

Whenever the polls were down he said that the election was being “rigged”. He needn't have worried about the polls as nobody seemed to mind that they never saw his tax returns and that when challenged on his almost invisible federal tax bill he said “that makes me smart”.

In an 18-month election campaign, it seemed that the party selection criteria for what it might take to be President failed “bigly”. On the Republican side they failed to check whether their candidate had any experience of politics and on the Democrat side they forgot to ask whether she had any experience of real life. The activists got their candidates and there was no subsequent attempt to find common ground. The policy differences between them did not get much of a look in as they detracted from the serious business of throwing insults and building cults.

The new politics certainly has no time for thought, ideas or understatement. It relies on vigorous un-nuanced tweeting, anonymous and ill-informed contributions to a thread, conspiracy everywhere, unyielding condemnation, over-exaggeration and unchecked assertion, all backed up by an immediate retreat to safe space where there is no danger of the winds of criticism blowing.

It's not much better here. A rather narrow-minded, authoritarian liberalism has ruled the cultural roost for ages. Look at any BBC comedy programme. The Sneer age has been very effective at drowning out, dismissing and mocking opinions it doesn't want to hear. Liberal tolerance isn't very tolerant when contrary opinions are held.

Lots of Labour Party activists spent most of the summer building a cult of Corbyn, even when it was clear that its MPs, elected by millions, had no confidence in him. Someone who had made a 30-year career out of being a rebel was now looking for loyalty, with newly signed up members wanting a cheerleader for class war rather than someone prepared to knit together a coalition of opinions.

On Brexit the outraged Remainers gave short shrift to the idea that anyone may be sceptical about the democratic credentials of the EU. Too often the response to the referendum was to accuse the Leavers of racism, xenophobia and Little Englandism.

To contact the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email the-leader@rbkc.gov.uk

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Luxury home for Alzheimer’s sufferers offering support and respite for carers

CHELSEA Court Place, the UK’s first luxury, purpose-built and designed residential and day-care home for residents with Alzheimer’s, is launching The Memory Club and Day Care Service, offering support and respite for carers at its King’s Road site.

“The club allows members who have Alzheimer’s disease and dementia to socialise, participate in stimulating activities and enjoy pampering and treatments in a safe, luxurious environment, while being cared for by the industry-leading team of dementia-trained professionals,” said a spokesman for the home where rooms are reported to cost £2,000 to £3,000 a week.

The home, which opened last month, offers the convenience, service and luxury of a five-star hotel, catering for full-time residents as well as short-term members, who can enjoy the facilities on a daily or weekly basis.

“Caring for somebody can be as rewarding as it is exhausting. The demands of modern life – juggling work, children, family, finances and caring for a loved one – can easily take its toll on the carer, resulting in detrimental health effects, negative financial implications, time constraints and personal relationships,” said the spokesman.

“The team at Chelsea Court Place also offer advice and training to carers and family to help support them in delivering the best care.

From curating personal care plans through the unique Dementia Care Mapping process, to giving practical guidance and emotional encouragement, the team fully understand the unique needs of each individual and are dedicated to helping improve the life of its members.

“Chelsea Court Place puts a strong importance on social, physical and mental stimulation. This holistic approach has been proven to enhance the mental health and emotional wellbeing of people with memory problems. Language classes, pet therapy, cooking, music therapy and innovative daily exercise are just some of the activities on the daily programme.”

The home’s managing director James Cook said: “We are delighted to launch this innovative members’ club concept. We have recognised the necessity to provide a service to people with memory care needs that engage and stimulate the individuals, while offering carers some deserved respite.”

General manager Christine Valentine-Bunce said: “Carers perform a vital role in caring for people with dementia. With an estimated 670,000 carers of people with dementia in the UK, with this figure continuing to grow alongside the rise in new dementia diagnosis, we are mindful of the huge tasks undertaken by carers.

Appeal for blankets

A FULHAM storage centre is urging customers to donate warm clothing and blankets as part of its Christmas appeal.

Staff at Access Self Storage in Effie Road will donate items to youngsters who are in the care of the Chelsea Children’s Hospital charity over the festive period.

More than 500 presents were

handed in during last year’s appeal, including tinned foods, games, books and toys.

Donations can be left at reception up to December 12.

Store manager Tracy Probert said: “Our staff selected Chelsea Children’s Hospital because they do an incredible job helping more than 70,000 children every year.”

21-storey office block planned for White City

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

DEVELOPERS are planning to build a huge 21-storey office block as part of the multi-million-pound regeneration of White City, it has been revealed.

The building, which is set to be named Gateway East, will tower over two smaller blocks at the heart of the new White City Place project.

Covering more than a million square feet of employment space between them, the three new buildings are expected to create up to 8,000 jobs for the area.

Planning applications have now been submitted for Gateway East and the two low-rise blocks, which will be known as Gateway Central and Gateway West.

Proposals put forward by developer Stanhope and its partners Mitsui Fudosan and AIMCo will form part of the ambitious new business district in White City.

More than 2,500 new homes and 20,000 jobs are being created as part of the 15-year regeneration scheme alongside plans for an expanded Westfield shopping centre with more than 400 stores.

Stretching to 21 storeys in height, Gateway East will be the tallest of the three new buildings.

If the plans are approved, it alone will provide more than 60,000 square feet of employment space with restaurant and retail units on the ground floor.

Gateway West will be a low-rise three- and four-storey building, while Gateway Central will vary in height from four to 12 storeys.

The developers say the Gateway project will also include extensive improvements to the local area, including new trees, raised gardens, lawns and seating areas as well as the creation of a central square.

It comes only weeks after fashion giant Yoox Net-a-Porter announced that it will be taking up around 70,000 square feet of space inside the MediaWorks building at White City Place next year.

The three Gateway buildings will compete



An artist’s impression of the proposed Gateway development

for skyline space next to the six existing blocks on the 17-acre site.

WestWorks will become available for lettings in 2017 while the Broadcast Centre, Energy Centre and Lighthouse buildings have been pre-let to the BBC.

Stepping up to work

YOUNG people with special educational needs and disabilities are being given a step up in the world of work.

Town-hall chiefs are working with disability campaigners, West London College and shampoo brand L’Oreal to provide a mentoring and study programme alongside

work experience. An event celebrating the scheme’s success was held at Hammer-smith Town Hall last week, following the launch of the programme in September.

The initiative includes work experience in human resources, reception desks and IT suites.

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Miserable Christmas looms for 90,000 homeless children

BY JACK DIXON

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

ALMOST 90,000 London children will wake up on Christmas Day homeless or in temporary accommodation this year – the highest number for a decade.

The shocking statistic was revealed by the housing charity Shelter following an analysis of official government figures.

An in-depth investigation also shone a light on the harsh realities of life for thousands of “hidden homeless” families in the capital.

Detailed interviews with 25 London families exposed dreadful living conditions, including sparking electrical sockets, broken beds and faulty windows.

Shelter said the latest figures were “shocking” and that poor standards of housing were having a “harrowing” impact on London’s children.

The charity has launched an urgent appeal to raise money towards housing some of the capital’s most vulnerable people this Christmas.

It said it “would not rest until every homeless child has a place to call home”.

Shelter chief executive Campbell Robb said: “News of the devastating rise in homeless children in London will bring heartache to millions of people across the capital. But the sad fact is, 50 years since Shelter was founded, too many families still need our help.

“Almost daily we hear from parents desperate to escape the single cramped room of a B&B or hostel that they find themselves struggling to raise



London councils are faced with a constant struggle to house homeless families in stable and affordable accommodation due to the shortage of properties

their children in. Imagine having to eat all your meals on the floor, share a bed with the rest of your family, or being too frightened to leave your room at night. These are things no parent wants their child to endure.”

Shelter’s analysis revealed that the number of families living in emergency bed and breakfast accommodation or hostel rooms had soared by 18 per cent in the last year.

London councils are faced with a constant struggle to house homeless families in stable and affordable accommodation due to the shortage of properties.

The charity’s investigation also revealed the emotional

turmoil of living in poor conditions.

Of the 25 families interviewed, 18 said their children’s mental health had been badly affected. There were accounts of children suffering from anxiety, struggling to sleep and becoming isolated from their friends.

Londoner Glenn Hodges, and his 10-year-old son Cam, became homeless following the breakdown of his relationship with his former partner.

Unable to find anywhere that he could afford to rent privately, Mr Hodges and Cam have been living in an emergency hostel for the last six months.

“It’s not a secure place at

all,” he said. “You’ve got people coming in and out all the time. The day we moved in here the person in the room below got raided by the police. We don’t feel safe.

“My son is 10 years old and he shouldn’t be dealing with that. I’m trying to protect him from it.”

But Mr Hodges said the most challenging aspect of his family’s homelessness was the uncertainty.

“Being a single father, I’m not worried about me now,” he added. “It’s the pressure of making sure Cam is all right. He’s getting depressed and he’s losing touch with his friends because he can’t play with them after school like he used to. It’s like you’ve lost control over your life.”

Families do not have to be sleeping rough on the streets to be classed as homeless. The tag applies to anyone living in emergency B&B or hostel rooms, as well as those who ‘sofa-surf’ at the homes of friends and family.

Kimberley and her husband Mark, who preferred not to share their surname, raised their two young children in a rented property.

But when their landlord decided to sell up, they could not afford anywhere to live on their existing income.

“Mark broke down the first night we were there,”

said Kimberley, whose family is now living in a shared hostel room.

“We were in the room and he just said ‘I can’t do this’. I had to say ‘you can do this, it’s all we’ve got’.

“We had to eat our meals on the beds as there was no other space. Every night it was lights out by 8.30pm so that the children could sleep, so we’d just have to sit there in the dark.”

Another Londoner, Angela, has been sofa-surfing with her son for almost a year after they were evicted from a privately-rented flat.

“We’re currently sofa-surfing with four different friends,” she said. “We spend a night with one, a night with another, two nights with another and so on ... it’s really hard. We are tired with all the moving.

“I try and be as positive as possible in front of my son but obviously I’m his mum and he can tell when I’m stressed out and can’t sleep sometimes. His sleep has been disturbed and he’s been wetting the bed recently, which he didn’t even do as a toddler.”

More than three quarters of the families interviewed by Shelter said they felt their accommodation was unsafe, with the worst accounts involving exposure to drug abuse, fighting and strangers sleeping in corridors.

Three out of five families said they had to share toilet and bathroom facilities – often in a poor and unsanitary condition – with other residents, while more than two thirds reported rooms in a state of disrepair, including mould problems, broken beds and stained mattresses.

Appealing directly to Londoners for their support for Shelter’s Christmas appeal, Mr Robb said: “We urgently need the public’s support to help us be there for the thousands of families who will need us this Christmas.

“Join us and together we will not rest until every homeless child has a place to call home.”

For more information about homelessness in London or to support Shelter’s appeal with a £3 donation, you can visit the website www.shelter.org.uk or text SHELTER to 70555.

Cash prize is rubbish idea

A CASH prize draw to encourage residents to recycle more and reduce waste has returned to Kensington and Chelsea – with a Christmas bonus of £500 for one lucky resident.

The Golden Ticket prize draw involves residents filling out special tickets and putting them out for collection with clean and dry recycling in their clear recycling bag.

The first draw is on Friday, December 16, and one resident can win a top cash prize of £500. There are also eight runner-up prizes of £250.

This year’s winner will also get to nominate a local community group that has pledged to promote local recycling to win a £2,500 community reward.

A second prize draw takes place on Friday 24 March 2017.

The Royal Borough’s Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Tim Ahern, said: “Dealing with contaminated recycling and processing household waste costs the council. We are charged £143.50 per tonne to dispose of waste compared with £25 per tonne recycled.

“If everyone in the Royal Borough recycled their waste this could save the council £2 million a year, which could be used for the provision of council services and keeping council tax low.”

Golden tickets have been delivered across the borough along with recycling bag deliveries, with additional tickets available in all of the borough’s libraries and the Customer Service Centre at Kensington Town Hall. Alternatively, you can print more by visiting www.rwva.gov.uk/GoldenTicket

Council tax set to rise by 2%

THE first increase in council tax for eight years was among the budget proposals debated on Thursday by the Kensington and Chelsea cabinet.

The increase, of just under two per cent, would, if agreed, contribute £1.5 million to the council’s coffers in 2017-18, money that would otherwise have to be found from reductions in services.

If the increase were to be applied, it could help the Royal Borough to remain the only council in the country still meeting the “moderate” care needs of vulnerable adults and one of the small minority in London still paying council-tax benefit that covers 100 per cent of council-tax bills.

And even with a two per cent increase, the Royal Borough’s tax would still remain among the lowest in the country.

“The council’s austerity survival strategy has so far been highly effective,” said council leader Cllr Nick Paget-Brown. “By sharing services with our neighbours, by making traditional efficiencies and by driving up income from council-owned properties, our services have remained remarkably intact. But the potential of that strategy for yielding further income and savings is shrinking. If we are to continue delivering really good services, we must start to find additional money – and the council tax is a sensible option.”

The emerging budget proposals, which can read in full on the council’s website, will now be refined and returned for discussion to future cabinet meetings. The budget for 2017-18 will be set at the annual budget meeting on 8 March.

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Pizzas become pounds

ITALIAN restaurant Franco Manca is to donate £1 to the Shepherd's Bush Families Project and Children's Centre for every pizza sold at its Westfield outlet during last week's 'Black Friday' spending spree.

The restaurant chain also collected donations from customers as shoppers flocked to cash in on bargain deals in the run-up to Christmas.

Franco Manca operations manager Sandro Spahiu said the company was “a firm believer in giving back to the community”.

Is the system equipped to help people in crisis?

For everyday illnesses and ailments, a visit to the family doctor is usually the first step on the path to recovery. But those with mental health problems may not receive the help they need.

A recent investigation has exposed how little training our GPs and practice nurses are offered in mental health, raising questions about the strength of 'the system' and its capability to care for the most vulnerable.

As part of the Change Is Possible campaign, being run by the *London Weekly News* and our sister paper the *South London Press* reporter Jack Dixon examines whether traditional health services are equipped to cope with mental illness

WE are at our most vulnerable when we are feeling unwell, and we rely on the expertise of doctors and nurses to help us on the road to recovery.

For the vast majority of illnesses and ailments, health professionals are able to advise the best course of treatment.

But what would happen if your GP simply didn't have the knowledge to help you?

A landmark investigation has uncovered a major shortfall in mental health training for doctors and nurses, shattering the illusion that the local surgery is the best place for patients to seek support.

Mind – England's leading mental health charity – found that the only mental health option being offered to trainee GPs was in psychiatry, which is hospital-based and focused on secondary care rather than patients in crisis.

Data obtained from freedom of information requests also revealed that little more than half of trainee GPs in south London – 57 per cent – opted for a training placement in a mental health setting last year.

While qualified GPs are required to continue their training, further research discovered that there was no obligation to spend any of their 'continued professional development' time on mental health.

The lack of expertise in the field is leading to situations where practising professionals feel unprepared to handle patients coming to them with a mental health problem.

Worryingly, more than four out of five practice nurses surveyed by Mind said they felt ill-equipped to deal with aspects of mental health, while 42 per cent confessed to having no mental health training at all.

Paul Farmer, Mind's chief executive, believes the system needs to change.

"A significant number of patients that GPs and practice nurses come into contact with will have experienced mental health problems, yet many primary care staff tell us they haven't had sufficient training to be able to deal with them," he said.

"Providing structured mental health training to primary care staff would help ensure they have the knowledge and confidence to provide quality support to the many patients coming through their doors who are struggling with their mental health."

Mr Farmer said health professionals were under "enormous



A recent investigation has exposed how little training our GPs and practice nurses are offered in mental health. Above: Paul Farmer, Mind's chief executive, believes the system needs to change

pressure" but were not being given the proper tools for the job.

He called on ministers to ensure all GPs and practice nurses receive comprehensive mental health training in the future.

He added: "Offering more training would help patients get the best outcomes while also alleviating some of the pressure GPs and practice nurses experience on a daily basis."

The concerns have been echoed by the Royal College of Nursing, which warns that the huge demand

on community mental health services is not being reflected in the training available to nurses.

Kathryn Yates, the RCN's professional lead for primary and community care, said: "All health and social care staff should view mental health as an essential part of their job – from encouraging people to speak up and seek treatment to supporting families and keeping people as well as possible at home."

"More training for primary care staff would not only help people to manage their mental health and

wellbeing better but could also ease pressure on other parts of the health service.

"A person with a mental health problem must be able to expect that any staff member they talk to or seek support or treatment from should be fully trained and confident in helping them."

What effect does the skills shortage have on patients? For one Londoner, it meant years of searching for the right services and extra stress piled on top of her already complex problems.

"The majority of GPs haven't properly understood me when I've tried to tell them how I'm feeling," said 28-year-old Charlotte, who has mixed depression and anxiety, as well as an undiagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder emanating from childhood sexual abuse.

"It's taken me many years to get the right diagnoses, help and support. Often I'm told they can't do anything and I'm turned away."

Charlotte said she had been moved around a lot between various health professionals and rarely saw the same GP twice.

"The best experience I had was a GP who was sympathetic – but he referred me onto services that never materialised," she added.

"If mental health problems are spotted sooner, they're a lot easier to treat."

SIX IMPROVEMENTS

Mind wants to improve mental health training for GPs and practice nurses to make sure those in need get the best help from health professionals. The charity has called for

- 1 NHS England and clinical commissioning groups to ensure all primary care staff have access to occupational health services and mental health support
- 2 Health Education England to ensure every trainee GP is able to undertake a placement in a mental health setting
- 3 The General Medical Council to specify a set proportion of GPs' annual 'continued professional development' credits that must have a mental health focus
- 4 The Nursing and Midwifery Council to specify a set number of training hours that practice nurses should spend with a focus on supporting people with mental health problems
- 5 GP practices to allocate sufficient funding to support protected training time for all staff
- 6 NHS England and clinical commissioning groups to include requirements for staff mental health training within commissioning agreements for primary care services

HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you would like to support our **Change Is Possible** campaign, there are several ways to get involved... **Share your story**

Do you have personal experience of living with mental health problems? Has a friend or family member been affected? Your story could help inspire others to donate towards our campaign.

Help us fundraise

Could you support our appeal by organising a fundraising event or setting yourself a sponsored challenge? Every penny could be crucial in helping us reach our campaign targets.

Donate to our campaign

To make a donation to our appeal, you can visit the dedicated website www.givey.com/changeispossible. Alternatively, you can write to Lambeth and Southwark Mind, 4th floor, 336 Brixton Road, London, SW9 7AA. They will be pleased to help.

● For more information about getting involved with our campaign, please contact *London Weekly News* and *South London Press* reporter Jack Dixon on 07973 565078 or email him at this address: jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE GOVERNMENT VIEW

A Department of Health spokesperson said: "We know it is vital GPs and other health professionals are trained to deal with the needs of people with mental health issues. Our mental health taskforce recommended improvements and working with Health Education England, we are already making progress."

"Since 2012, the number of trainee doctors working in mental health settings during their foundation programme has more than doubled, we have seen the highest ever fill rate for core psychiatry training, and mental health nursing trainee places are growing at a faster rate than any other nursing specialty in the NHS."

"We have made huge strides in the way we think about and treat mental illness – as the Prime Minister has made clear, the struggles that people with mental health face are among the very deep inequalities that this Government is determined to address."

"Mental health nursing trainee places have increased year-on-year since 2013. All staff in training have access to online educational materials about mental health. Health Education England leads on the training of all health professionals and is currently working on mental health workforce strategy."

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Prison for gang after bungled gems raid left officers injured

BY COURT REPORTERS
news@londonweeklynews.co.uk

FOUR members of a motorcycle gang who ran over a police officer as they tried to flee on mopeds during a £1million luxury watch raid have been jailed for a total of 45 years.

One officer needed major head surgery after being left with a bleed on the brain and broken ribs after being mowed down whilst another was injured by a machete.

The gang targeted the Chronext store in Mayfair on August 3 and shouted "don't f***ing move" at staff as they targeted millions of pounds worth of Rolex, Audemars Piguet and Patak Philippe watches.

It was revealed that two of the robbers had been released on licence for similar offences when they carried out the raid.

Armed with axes and machetes, Charlie Kavanagh and Johnny Kyriacou, both 25, Stephen Hopkins, 29, and James Symes, 30, stormed the store and damaged 60 watches worth £90,000.

Plain clothed officers were lying in wait for the gang to go into the shop before Taser



A smash and grab gang ran over a police officer as they were dramatically tackled whilst trying to flee on mopeds during a £1million luxury watch raid
Picture: Mick Francis/SVNS

members of the group and grabbing them as they tried to run for it.

DC Richard Watson, a 43-year-old Met Flying Squad detective, was left seriously injured, with head wounds,

broken ribs, a broken fibula and a bleed on the brain after being hit by a moped ridden by Kavanagh.

All four pleaded to conspiracy to rob while Kavanagh admitted causing injury by

dangerous driving and Hopkins admitted unlawful wounding with reckless intent.

Last Thursday at Blackfriars Crown Court, Kavanagh was given a life sentence with a minimum of 13 and a half years.

Hopkins and Symes were both jailed for 10 and a half years with an additional four years on license for each of them.

Kyriacou was jailed for 10 and a half years.

Prosecutor Howard Tobias told Blackfriars Crown Court: "Chronext was the target, a luxury watch retailer, and at the time of the robbery £1 million of stock was kept on the shop floor.

He said: "Kavanagh was on a dark blue moped, Symes on a white one, with Kyriacou and Hopkins travelling as pillion passengers.

"They repeatedly mounted the pavement to avoid traffic, causing so much concern a member of the public called police and took photographs on his phone. Plain clothed officers witnessed the dangerous driving of the bikes and saw the axe handles poking out of the passengers' rucksacks. Two passengers got off, smashed the front glass door. The drivers stayed on

bikes revving the engines to deter anyone from confronting them. When Kyriacou was arrested he said, 'I had to do it, I have got kids and no money and I owe some Albanians £10,000, I had to pay them somehow and now I'm f***ed'.

"Hopkins, who was wearing five layers of clothing, possibly to avoid the effects of a Taser, was pursued down the street as he carried an axe.

"As he was tackled DC Will Roscoe suffered a right knee injury from a machete. Symes was struck off the bike and it took four officers to control him as he was being aggressive and threatening. Kyriacou brandished a large machete and shoved it towards officers who grappled him to the ground.

"It was at this point that the prosecution say Kavanagh drove deliberately towards police with the sole intent of ramming through to avoid arrest.

"He seemed intent to force his way through without any regard for who or what was in the way. DC Jamie Witts and DC Watson had their backs turned or were side on so could not step out of the way and Richard Watson became trapped under the moped.

"This was a professional, planned and commercial robbery, with the use of axes and high level of harm on a serving police officer."

DC Richard Watson needed major head surgery after having a seizure during the attack.

He spent five days in hospital and still suffers from memory problems and difficulty walking after he damaged his ankle, but he is expected to make a full recovery.

The court also heard Kavanagh and Hopkins were out on licence for similar smash and grab raids at the time of the Piccadilly raid.

All of the gang have previous convictions for scooter smash and grab raids, including a £23,000 robbery of a jewellery shop in Bury St Edmunds in 2011 and £25,000 taken from a watch shop in Clerkenwell.

A window on Queen's reign

DAVID Hockney is to design a stained glass window in Westminster Abbey to celebrate the record-breaking reign of The Queen.

The artist said he has "planned a landscape full of blossom that's a celebration every year".

The 20ft x 6ft window in the abbey's north transept will be known as The Queen's Window and is being paid for by two anonymous benefactors.

Last year The Queen became the nation's longest reigning monarch, with 64 years on the throne, and last month she became the world's longest reigning monarch, following the death of Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

A Westminster Abbey spokesman said Hockney was chosen as he was "probably the greatest contemporary British artist" and as Hockney has been awarded the Order of Merit by The Queen, "he was the most appropriate choice for the commission".

The spokesman added, "He will have pretty much free rein because he's David Hockney. We're as interested as everyone else to see what he comes up with. The Queen is certainly aware of the proposal and there will be continual briefings from us."

Hockney painted The Queen in 2012, composing an image of the Diamond Jubilee river pageant on an iPad as he watched it on TV.

The window is scheduled to be installed by June 2018, to coincide with the planned opening of the Queen's Jubilee Gallery in the abbey.

Housing fund underspend

AN underspend of £23.4 million has been discovered in the Mayor's Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund, which funds supported housing.

Now the London Assembly's housing committee is calling for better financing from the Mayor so that the capital's most vulnerable "aren't left in the dark any longer".

Supported housing is an umbrella term covering a spectrum of accommodation-based support for vulnerable people. These include people with physical or learning disabilities, frail and older people, people at risk of domestic violence, young people leaving care and homeless people. The London Assembly housing committee has released a report, *Supported Housing in the Balance*, which looks at the current challenges facing supported housing in the capital.

"The report highlights worrying concerns that hundreds of the most vulnerable Londoners will face an uncertain future, unless the Mayor of London and the Government act immediately to rectify the situation," said a spokesman for the committee.

Andrew Boff, chairman of the housing committee said: "The limited capital funds available from City Hall are not being utilised because public and private developers are reluctant to build new supported housing.

"The Government has been dragging its feet over announcing future revenue funding arrangements, which are vital in reducing scheme risk for developers. The crazy fact is that supported housing placements cost less than a specialist residential equivalent, so they will save money in the long-term."

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'All I did was go to work'

THE policeman who suffered a fractured skull when he tackled the gang of thieves has told of the effects of his injuries.

Detective Constable Richard Watson, a 43-year-old Flying Squad officer, was hit square on by a scooter driven by one of the gang, ending up in the road with the scooter lying on top of him. He suffered a fractured skull with bleeds on his brain, cracked ribs, damage to his lung and a broken ankle.

He has yet to fully recover from his injuries and return to work. He said: "I'm alarmed at the extent of my injuries as all I did was go to work one day and I ended up on the operating table a couple of days later.

"It is too early to say what the long-term prognosis is going to be and whether there will be any psychological consequences. I have been in a considerable amount of pain since the incident, especially post-op in relation to my head.

"These injuries, specifically the brain injury, could affect my future career in the police."



A labour of love and lament

As the new £83 million Design Museum opened in Kensington last week, local councillor and architecture expert Emma Dent Coad, pictured, went along to assess the transformation at the old Commonwealth Institute. Here is her report on the 'balance and sacrifice' of the new building.

IT is very difficult to write about a building that feels like a family friend.

I have visited the Commonwealth Institute throughout my life, starting with regular primary school trips. We would traipse up Earl's Court Road in twos, to the inspiring building where our very international mix of pupils felt entirely at home. We even used the theatre for school plays.

Later I took my children there, we giggled at the cow milking exhibit and admired beautiful and strange artefacts from around the globe.

Later still I campaigned with Docomomo-UK to save the building from dereliction and demolition. Finally, as a councillor I sat on the planning committee that approved the application to accommodate the Design Museum, and there could hardly be a more worthy tenant.

But how would I cope with the 're-purposing' of this icon?

The best approach to the building is through the park. The beautiful sweep of the roof, and the renewed exterior cladding, is tastily updated without being compromised. The courtyard when entered from the park is pretty and welcoming.

And then you enter, and it all changes. In place of the processional route past the flag court via the famous loggia and lobby, into the exhibition hall with its sweeping stairs and galleries, you are smacked in the face by the awesome wood-clad atrium rising far above you. There are few clues as to its purpose. The first impression is more of a prestigious hotel cum conference centre.

Legibility has been sacrificed on the altar of architecture. Circulation space is generous, if not excessive, but it is also very confusing.

Some visitors quickly got lost. 'There's a lovely library, where is the li-

brary?', 'Is this the way to a basement car park, or another gallery?'

Anonymous doors may lead to a private office, meeting space, gallery, auditorium or – eventually – a library, but the building keeps its secrets and some found this annoying.

Spaces such as course rooms, the library I eventually managed to find, and most other public spaces are generously located on the outside of the building with lovely views of Kensington.

Students will flock to the exhibitions, which needless to say will be intelligent and inspiring, and they will love it.

Others more qualified than I have written at length about the building itself, so I will turn to how it works within its physical location, and how it might change the dynamics of the neighbourhood.

As a planning councillor I have been involved from the 'game-keeping' end of this story, which began in 2011. I was unsure then about the placement of the three OMA blocks – and I think I was right.

OMA is the architectural practice of Rem Koolhaas who designed the three residential blocks that sit in the former Commonwealth Institute building's courtyard. Rem Koolhaas and John Pawson who converted the CI building are world class architects.

In essence the original courtyard has been sacrificed to Mammon. The housing blocks completely obscure the view from the street of the well-loved Commonwealth Institute building, infuriating local people who have to look at them every day.

The blocks are heavy on architecture and light on sensitivity in relation to the street, more like funky battery chargers keeping the old building going, than any kind of urban improvement.

Paving stones carved with the names of Commonwealth countries – a trib-

ute to the former flag court – are a graveyard to our imperial ambitions. From the street it is, frankly, joyless.

I left the building and walked down Kensington High Street with visitors who hadn't been in the area for a while.

They were truly shocked at the state of the formerly vibrant High Street, barely clinging onto life with its empty, charity and pop-up shops, looking more and more like Edgware Road, but without the buzz.

I explained to the visitors that the council is gambling the entire future of the High Street on the success of the Design Museum.

This reactive rather than proactive position is a frustration to those of us who have seen Ken High Street decline over the past decade. School or uni students will be looking for McDonalds not The Ivy, and I'm unconvinced that the better-heeled evening and weekend visitors will spend enough to sustain a bright new future for central Kensington.

A planning 'fail' in my opinion, time will tell.

Right across the road from this hothouse of education and design idolatry sits another casualty of Mammon, our beautiful Art Deco Kensington Odeon, boarded up and awaiting its outcome.

On the table is an execrable Ritblat/Minerva plan to wrap a mere vestige of the façade in luxury flats. This application was so unsympathetic that it was thrown out by a usually developer-friendly planning committee, but sadly it won on appeal.

An alternative scheme preserves the current building and its gorgeous marbled lobby and stairs, and turns it into a mixed-use arts centre, which has the support of 20,000 residents and a shed-load of money.

In another planning 'fail' however, the council has controversially refused applications to designate the



The newly opened Design Museum in Kensington

building as an Asset of Community Value so the alternative plans can be drawn up. The good people of Kensington are enraged.

The irony is that the OMA

flats that have supposedly saved the Commonwealth Institute building from demolition have made the area so insanely expensive that positive and trip-generating

ventures, such as reinvigorating the High Street with independent shops and the proposed arts centre, could lose out to yet more luxuriously empty flats.

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Carers are sought to support our vulnerable

A RECRUITMENT evening is being staged to find carers to support vulnerable adults.

Do you have the space, time and commitment to share your life with a vulnerable adult? If you can support someone to lead a meaningful life and develop their independence then you could become a Shared Lives carer.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, along with Westminster and Hammersmith & Fulham, has launched a community service called Shared Lives to help adults with learning disabilities and other social-care needs.

The service will be delivered by the Grace Eyre charity and all carers will receive training and support and a weekly fee of between £400 and £600 per person.

A recruitment session and information event will be held this evening, November 29, at the Westway Trust, 1 Thorpe Close, W10 5XL, between 6.15pm and 7.45pm.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's cabinet member for adult social care, Cllr Mary Weale, said: "This is a very worthwhile project which will give greater choice to vulnerable adults."

"There is evidence that shows that this type of community-based support for adults with disabilities can help them develop skills to live more independent and active lives."

"I hope people who feel they have the time to look after an adult with learning disabilities will come to the recruitment evening and find out more about what is involved in being a Shared Lives carer."

The Grace Eyre charity was founded in 1898.

Artists to take over Portobello Road for designer-maker fair



Pottery by Eunmi Kim



ARTISTS are set to take over Portobello Road for the area's first Christmas Designer-Maker Fair, which will be held from December 2 to 4.

Notting Hill-based creative community Kindred Studios is thrilled to be launching its first Christmas fair with local artists, designers and makers.

More than 45 local artisans will take over Tavistock Square on the north end of Portobello Road, showcasing a wide range of handmade gifts.

A variety of affordable handmade pieces, all produced in Notting Hill, will be on offer. An event spokesman said: "Locals can come along to explore and purchase directly from the makers while supporting their local creative economy."

All sales will go directly to the respective makers.

The spokesman said: "Items will include jewellery, handmade accessories, prints, ceramics, fashion and more, making the Portobello Christmas Designer-Maker Fair the perfect place to pick up special Christmas gifts while supporting local creatives."

"The fair will be a great day out for families, with free, fun and creative activities for children, alongside a specially created winter wonderland."

Angelique Schmitt, co-founder of Kindred Studios, said: "We created Kindred Studios to offer emerging artists, designers and makers a supportive and much-needed maker space in Central London, as more and more artists' studios are currently closing down."

"This fair will give locals the chance to meet and support their neighbourhood artisans and maybe also pick up the perfect Christmas gift."

Kindred Studios is working with local artists and in conjunction with Westway Trust's Christmas Festival to host the Portobello Christmas Designer-Maker Fair.



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Purses

Leading Victorian artist's studio home named city's most loved culture venue

LEIGHTON House Museum has won a *Time Out Love London* Award as Kensington's most loved culture venue.

Among the comments submitted as people cast their votes were: "This is a fascinating house, beautifully restored, with well-informed guides who describe the life of Frederick Leighton and his world."

"There are always new exhibitions and events to entice you back, and you won't be disappointed."

"Stunning rooms, full of atmosphere and drama and presented to the highest standards. You can vividly imagine Lord Leighton entering upon the scene at any moment. An excellent programme of related workshops and talks."

Leighton House Museum is the former studio home of leading Victorian artist Frederic, Lord Leighton who lived from

1830 to 1896. Built to designs by George Aitchison, it was extended and embellished over a period of 30 years to create a private palace of art.

The Arab Hall is the centrepiece of the house.

(Designed to display Leighton's priceless collection of more than a thousand Islamic tiles, mostly brought back from Damascus in Syria, the interior evokes a compelling vision of the Orient.

Leighton House Museum is located on Holland Park Road, W14 8LZ, and is open to the public daily, except Tuesdays, from 10am to 5.30pm. See rbkc.gov.uk/museums.

The *Time Out Love London* Awards are annual awards. See timeout.com/london/lovelondonawards#/results/kensington/local_culture.





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Opening times

Thursday	22 December	Open until 7pm*
Saturday	24 December	Open until 7pm*
Monday	26 December	Closed
Tuesday	27 December	Closed
Saturday	31 December	Open until 7pm*
Monday	2 January 2017	Closed
*some stalls may close early		



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
**KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA**

World running headlong into abyss, warns Prince of Wales

IT'S not just Buckingham Palace which is falling to bits – Prince Charles has again warned that the planet is facing becoming disastrously beyond repair, and in his most dire alert yet he is cautioning that the world is running headlong into the abyss.

In a speech at St James's Palace at this year's annual Accounting for Sustainability Summit (A4S), a business initiative of the Prince of Wales Charitable Foundation, Prince Charles warned finance leaders that

the need to decarbonise the planet fast had now become critical.

He said: "In 2004, when I first started my Accounting for Sustainability Project, Earth Overshoot Day – the date at which humanity's resource consumption for the year exceeds Earth's capacity to regenerate those resources – was estimated to be in late October. This year it was in the first half of August.

"This deeply alarming trend highlights our

failure to act effectively over the past decade, and underlines the urgency, or should underline the urgency, of finding ways to account for and enhance the value of our natural capital – before we fall off the proverbial cliff. Finance has a critical leadership role to play if we are to have any kind of a sustainable future.

"We live in an age of unprecedented change – the so-called Great Acceleration – which is showing no signs of abating.

"Indeed, we are currently running headlong into the abyss. Greenhouse gases are continuing to build in the atmosphere at a truly frightening rate.

"Last year we broke the dangerous barrier of 400 parts per million of CO₂, with the warmest temperatures on record, and species are becoming extinct at a disturbing rate. Is this what we really want?

"And on top of this, societies around the world are becoming ever more fractured, with trust in big business and our institutions falling. What good will it do at the end of the day to say 'I told you so...?'

"The trouble is the risks we face are interconnected, and we are not going to be able to shut ourselves away from these consequences.

"Just think, for instance, of the current desperate situation in Syria. It was little reported, but a severe drought for seven years was one of the causes of major damage to Syria's rural economy in the run-up to the conflict.

"Many farmers became desperate enough to leave their fields and head into the cities, where people were already struggling with food shortages and refugees from Iraq, thereby increasing the social tensions that eventually exploded.

"There is a direct connection between what we do to the Earth and what we do to each other, and we have to realise how serious it will become if we do not act now. And yet those who should know better are still saying the opposite.

"In the face of the overwhelming scale of these challenges, and our failure to act with the urgency needed over the past 30 years – despite the ever more strident warnings – it would be very easy to become utterly depressed and give up. However, just at the point of no return, with our backs to the wall, there are some signs of real leadership emerging. Any risk can present an opportunity, and more and more governments, businesses and investors are acting in concert to deliver the kind of innovation that just might provide the solutions we so desperately need.

"The risks we face are growing, but it seems that the scale of innovation is also accelerating at a pace. The cost of renewable energy is falling faster than we had thought possible. With battery technology advancing rapidly, providing the potential to store energy when the sun isn't shining and the wind isn't blowing, a radical shift away from our reliance on fossil energy is looking ever more possible.



Prince Charles says again that Earth is facing becoming beyond repair

"I have said in the past that it is not necessarily a choice between making money on the one hand and 'doing the right thing' on the other. On the contrary, once it is recognised that 'business as usual' is unsustainable it follows naturally that those organisations which start to develop resilient business models will be the ones that succeed.

"I am delighted by the progress made by members of my CFO Leadership Network, who are using natural and social capital accounting, and 'circular economy' thinking, to drive innovation. This thinking recognises that an organisation does not exist in a bubble – it is dependent on the environment and society for its very existence and must, therefore, consider its whole value chain.

"An excellent example of this is the collaboration between Adidas and Parley for the Oceans, an environmental group that raises awareness of marine pollution, to produce training shoes made from recycled waste.

"One million pairs will be made using plastic taken from the waters around the Maldives, with each pair containing 11 plastic bottles.

"As well as the Parley trainers, the company is also using recycled ocean waste to make limited-edition football kits for Bayern Munich and Real Madrid, unleashing the incredible power of both their own and the clubs' brands to encourage consumers and boost the demand for change.

"Having perfected the technique, Adidas now plan to phase out virgin plastics in other products and replace it with recycled plastic – clearly a bold ambition. But why don't we all have a deposit scheme for plastic bottles, as Sweden has had for the past 20 years as well as Germany for the past 12 years and Belgium, and eliminate the problem before it enters the oceans?

"I will look forward very much to hearing about the progress you have made, at next year's summit. The world is changing faster than we could ever have imagined, and if we do not take increasingly urgent action to decarbonise it rapidly, we could well find ourselves with a planet and a society that are disastrously beyond repair."

Geoff Baker

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Westminster & City NEWS

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Sainsbury's Store	Melbourne Avenue	West Ealing	W13 9BZ
Tesco Metro	94 Church Street	Paddington	NW6 8EX
Tesco Classic Metro	17-25 Regent Street	London	SW1Y 4LR
Sainsbury's Store	38 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9EQ
Co-op	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF
Coach & Horses Pub	23 Greek Street	Soho	W1D 5DH
Pimlico Library	Lupus Street	Pimlico	SW1V 3EY

Kensington & Chelsea NEWS

pick up points

Kensington Central Library	Philmore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL
Avonmore Lib. & Neighbourhood Ctr	North End Crescent		W14 8TG

Fulham Chronicle

pick up points

Fulham Library	598 Fulham Road		SW6 5NX
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Hammersmith CHRONICLE

pick up points

The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT
Hammersmith Library	Shepherd's Bush Road		W6 7AT

Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE

pick up points

Westfield Library	6 Wood Lane		W12 7BF
Askew Road Library	87-91 Askew Road		W12 9AS



Kensington Palace is celebrating the festive period with a host of Victorian-themed events

Enjoy Christmas Victorian-style at Kensington Palace

KENSINGTON Palace is welcoming the festive season with a Victorian Christmas. Queen Victoria's childhood home is decking its halls with lanterns, celebrating a traditional Christmas with fun family activities – and kids go free.

Until January 2, Kensington Palace is celebrating a traditional British Christmas, with a return to its historical roots in the Victorian era.

"The palace will be decked with traditional decorations throughout the festive season, all inspired by tales of Victoria's Christmases here, taken from her diaries. From brass bands playing famous carols of the age, to talks on Victorian Christmas dinner, the palace promises to be the perfect place to get into the festive spirit," said a spokesman.

"Many Christmas traditions we celebrate today were born during Queen Victoria's reign. Charles Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol*, and Christmas cards and Christmas crackers were invented and commercially produced in London in the period.

"Queen Victoria herself was responsible for an important tradition – she was the first monarch to grow up with a Christmas tree after they were introduced to this country by her grandmother, Queen Charlotte.

"From December, visitors will be welcomed to the palace by a three-storey Christmas tree laden with candle lanterns, with the theme of silhouettes and shadow play continuing inside the palace. Lightboxes with displays of festive outdoor scenes and foliage will adorn archways, windows and corridors.

"Spot silhouettes of ice skaters, dog walkers and the happy royal couple Victoria and Albert. Quotes from Queen Victoria's diary entries will also be interwoven, creating the effect of stepping into a pop-out storybook.

"Each Saturday, families will have the chance to try their hand at lantern-making in a drop-in session, or have a go at creating a Victorian-inspired decoration to adorn the Christmas tree in the palace's Family Room."

Family-friendly activities continue with object handling in the *Victoria Revealed* exhibition, where children can discover toys popular in the 19th century, or play with a doll house inspired by Victoria's own, among her childhood treasures on display.

Between Christmas and New Year, festive music from The Prince Regent's Band will fill the palace's historic Queen's Gallery every day, with visitors encouraged to stop and enjoy Victorian carols and Christmas tunes.

The palace's food historians will also be on hand for "Tasty Talks" on selected dates during December.

These 20-minute talks explore the Victorian history of the food and traditions of the modern-day Christmas table, from the origins of Christmas puddings, to the reason why crackers crack. Each talk ends with a celebratory drink of spiced mulled cider from the wassail bowl, a traditional toasting vessel.

For those inspired to learn more about how the Victorians celebrated Christmas, the palace's popular ticketed brunchtime lecture series continues, with *The Rise Of Christmas Shopping* – a look at the development of the festive shopping period as we know it, from window displays and advertising, to the gifts given and received by Queen Victoria – on December 3.

Rounding off the Victorian fun, *Panto & Performance* on January 14 promises to provide an insight into the vibrant world of Victorian performance, from cross-dressing actors to backstage shenanigans.

Palace admission-ticket prices start at £15.40 and children under 16 can go free. Concessions start at £12.60. Opening hours: Mondays to Sundays, 10am to 4pm (last admission 3pm). Note that the palace is closed on December 24 and will reopen from December 27.

Special events:

● Victorian brunch-time lecture series. 11am to 12.30pm. Saturday December 3: *The Rise Of Christmas Shopping*. Wednesday December 14: *Panto & Performance*. Ticket includes a glass of bucks fizz and entry to Kensington Palace. £15/£12 Historic Royal Palaces members.

● Tasty Talks. December 8, 11, 18 and 29. Free with a palace ticket.

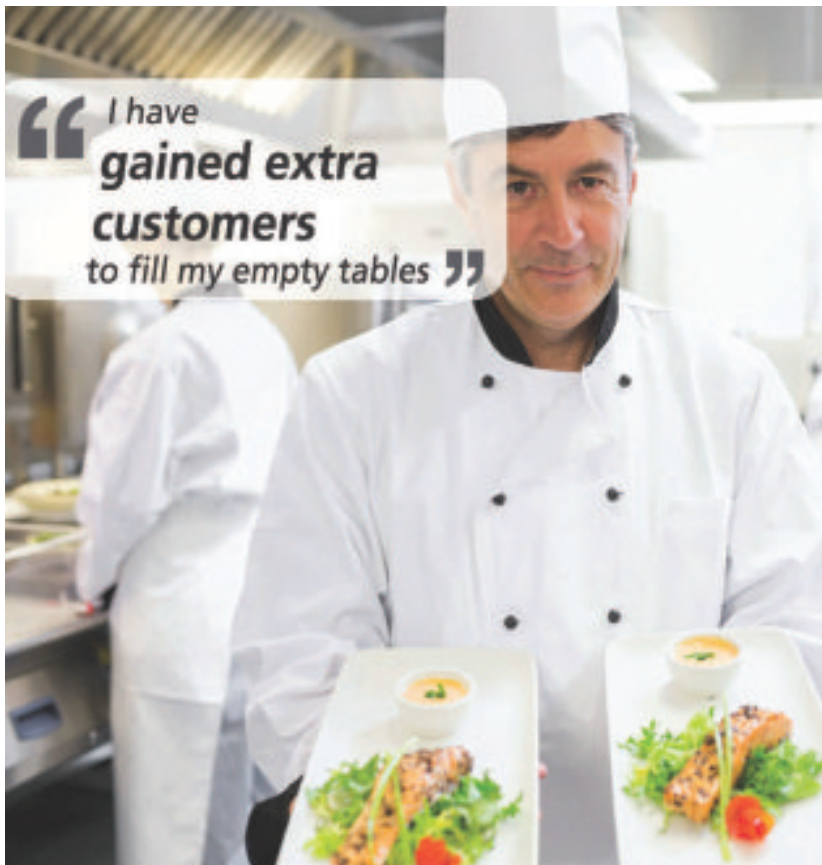
● Drop-in object handling sessions. December 3, 10 and 17 (Saturdays), 11am to 3pm. Free with a palace ticket.

● Lantern-making workshop. December 3, 10 and 17 (Saturdays). Drop-in sessions aimed at families. Free with a palace ticket.

● Create your own Christmas decoration. December 3, 10 and 17 (Saturdays). Free with a palace ticket.

● Family workshop: Victorian puppet theatre. Saturday December 17. Stage your own pantomime this Christmas and create a Victorian shadow puppet theatre – reliving the tradition where children would put on performances at family gatherings at Christmas time. Free, no palace ticket required.

● Music at the palace. Daily, December 27 to January 2. Free with a palace ticket.



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Capital nights

gigguide

Compiled by Jack Dixon



Dr John Cooper Clarke & Hugh Cornwell

Forum, Kentish Town
Tuesday November 29
A match made in heaven, punk poet John Cooper Clarke teams up with ex-Stranglers singer Hugh Cornwell. The duo released an album, *This Time It's Personal*, this year and are taking the show on the road this week. A selection of covers feature Clarke on vocals for the first time.



TOY

Electric Brixton, Brixton
Wednesday November 30
Brighton rockers return to solo duties after an interesting collaboration with Bat For Lashes singer Natasha Khan last year. Fully refreshed, the psychedelic five-piece are back to their best on new album *Clear Shot*, which follows 2012's self-titled debut. Krautrock and shoegaze elements have earned them the tag of underlings to goth legends The Horrors.



Toddla T

Oval Space, Bethnal Green
Saturday December 3
Sheffield record producer and remixer extraordinaire Toddla T began DJ-ing in bars and clubs at the age of 14. T, real name Tom Bell, has repackaged music by the likes of Hot Chip, Ladyhawke and Roots Manuva, and has two studio albums of his own to his name. His sound covers a broad spectrum of hip-hop, electronic, garage and house music.

Politics is a joke. Or at least it has seemed that way in recent months.

First Brexit and then the "Trumpocalypse" defied the pollsters' predictions and made a laughing stock of the liberal elite.

But while our political leaders scramble for supremacy in this strange, uncharted territory, it's our comedians who are cashing in with Joe Public.

"It's in a wonderful state of chaos," says Matt Forde, who has stepped forward as the Prime Minister of this new comedy cabal.

"The Tories going bonkers over Europe, Labour going bonkers about everything, the SNP still energised by the last referendum and desperate for another, and UKIP having the moment they've always dreamt of. In short, it's nuts. Which is good."

While the two seismic events of the political year may have created a leadership vacuum at the heart of our democracy, Forde is single-handedly attempting to fill the void.

His podcast-turned-live-show *The Political Party* has encapsulated the inherent hilarity of our topsy-turvy 2016, pinning political heavyweights in the spotlight while at the same time having a good old chuckle at the whole palava.

Forde has gone head-to-head with the likes of Tony Blair, Nigel Farage and George Galloway so far – and as the show grows in popularity, politicians are now queuing up to appear in the hot seat.

It's the latest quirk in a long history of political satire in British comedy, Forde suggested in a recent interview with *The List*.

"Part of the joke with (1980s ITV comedy puppet show) *Spitting Image* was how it elevated quite bland individuals into these huge characters.

"British politics hasn't been this vivid in my lifetime. Boris, Sturgeon, Farage, Corbyn, McDonnell,

Previewing

Matt Forde's Political Party at St James Theatre



Matt Forde is at St James Theatre tomorrow, November 30, with his show *The Political Party*

Salmond, Rees-Mogg – politics is bursting with character."

Formerly a New Labour adviser, Forde was a fully paid-up member of the party before the Corbyn revolution.

But his switch to satire has seen him embrace all arms of the political spectrum.

The monthly *Political Party* events regularly sell out Westminster's St James Theatre, while the podcast version of the show has amassed more than 100,000 downloads on Soundcloud on its way to the top spot in the iTunes comedy chart.

The increasing turbulence of the political climate has been cranked up in line with Forde's rise to fame, making him one of the UK's most in-demand satirists.

While he has a healthy disrespect for the political class – "The problem with Nigel Farage is that he sounds

great but the lyrics are awful, he's like Oasis" – he also recognises that making a difference in Westminster is a tough job rarely acknowledged.

"For the most part the way that politicians are interviewed is in quite a hostile manner," he says.

"Even by sometimes quite a slavish, mainstream media, politicians are immediately mistrusted and they're not given enough time to get their answers out.

"So what I wanted to do was build a show where they're allowed to waffle a bit, because that's a price worth paying for more interesting answers.

"These are people who care about the future of the country, who are deeply motivated public servants. I wanted to give them a bit more time. And I wanted to have a bit of a laugh."

Forde cut his teeth on radio and

hosted a spin-off for talkSPORT radio in which sporting figures were interviewed alongside celebrity fans.

He is now branching out beyond the stage and hosted a made-for-television version of the show – *Unspun with Matt Forde* – for Dave this year.

But whatever the medium, Forde encourages a deeper dialogue between politics and the people. The onus, he says, is on everyone to engage with the way Westminster works – not least for the laughs.

"What's quite important and key to our relationship with politics, I think, is sometimes to view it as entertainment," he says. "We need to liberate ourselves from taking it too seriously."

The Political Party is at St James Theatre tomorrow, November 30, featuring Paddy Ashdown, and December 15, featuring Ed Balls and Alastair Campbell.

AMONG music legends, Nile Rodgers, pictured, is exceptional. He amplifies his legacy as a Grammy-winning composer, producer and guitarist by traversing new artistic terrain and pushing the boundaries of popular music.

He is also renowned for his charitable work. One minute Rodgers is headlining some of the world's biggest stages, the next he is getting down to business as chairman of the We Are Family Foundation, which works to encourage creativity in young people, serving on the board of governors for the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, or delivering a keynote speech at the International Music Summit in Ibiza.



Rodgers' latest endeavour is a little more straightforward. Just get up and play.

His one-off show with Chic at the Hammersmith Apollo next month is raising money for the autism research charity Autism Rocks.

The event follows a successful session with Latino singer Ricky Martin in June that raised more than £100,000 towards the cause.

"We are absolutely delighted that Chic and Nile

are lending their support to our cause," said Autism Rocks founder Sanjay Shah.

"Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disorder in the world and it is important to raise awareness of the condition."

Chic are best known for their classic hits *Le Freak*, *I Want Your Love* and *Good Times*. But as a producer, Rodgers has worked with the likes of Madonna, Diana Ross, David Bowie and Daft Punk. He won plaudits from none other than Noel Gallagher at Glastonbury Festival in 2013 when the ex-Oasis guitarist claimed he had outshone even the Rolling Stones that night.

This year, Rodgers brought his FOLD festival to the grounds of Fulham Palace and is set to return next summer.

Mac: Secret of my success

THE secret of South Londoner Danny Mac's barnstorming of *Strictly Come Dancing* can now be revealed, and it has nothing to do with his status as King Stunner of Stunnerland.

The good-looking Bromley-born actor has won millions of fans since he stepped out of *Hollyoaks* to put on his dancing shoes and he is now the bookies' favourite to win the contest. Ladbroke's are currently quoting only 10/11 odds on him waltzing off with the dance crown, so nobody's going to get rich on what appears to be that racing certainty.

Mac, the Chelsea fan who studied at ArtsEd in Chiswick – the performing arts school also attended by *Strictly* judge Darcey Bussell

and *Strictly* walkout Will Young – wowed viewers and judges alike in week nine of the show, when his Charleston to *Puttin' On The Ritz* with professional partner Oti Mabuse was such a hit that he became the first contestant to score the perfect 40, and became the first contestant to get a score of 10 from Craig Revel Horwood.

So what's his secret? His energetic dedication to training? His keen wish to impress his fiancée, *Hollyoaks* actress Carley Stenson?

No. It's his height. He is five feet seven and a half, which experts say is the ideal height for a male dancer and is exactly the same height as Fred Astaire.

Capital nights

IT'S now 40 years since the Sex Pistols performed their famous gig at the Lesser Free Trade Hall in Manchester – a show remembered as a musical milestone due to the flurry of future stars who came to catch a glimpse of their punk icons that night.

Many of music's greatest names, just teenagers at the time, took the Pistols' snarling, anti-everything attitude as a template for their own creative endeavours.

But where are the anarchists of today? A glance at the charts reveals they are nowhere to be seen. Except, perhaps, for Slaves.

In a recent interview with *The Independent*, guitarist Laurie Vincent said: "There's a template for what gets into the charts these days, isn't there? Less and less people seem to want to smash their gear around on stage in anger. We do."

There's an instinctive sense of fury that runs through the band's songs, frontman Isaac Holman said.

"I just always felt full of aggression, always had these ... these feelings inside me."

Zig-zagging across the UK on a whirlwind tour of the nation's toilet venues, Slaves have become well used to the grit and the grime.

A band that has never been known to sacrifice brawn for brains, the boys from Tunbridge Wells are primal creatures – on stage and off.

Buckets of sludge from sticky nightclub floors seem to come pumping out of the speakers when the duo plug in.

And these aren't songs to be savoured – they erupt from the engine room in an all-out audio onslaught.

Lauded for their visceral modernisation of snarling punk rock, Slaves are hitting the zeitgeist square in the face.

The band are fast amassing an army of dedicated fans – a squadron of

high-energy headbangers exploding out from their 21st-century trappings.

But this is no oddball fringe sect: Slaves are in the money.

Vincent and Holman scooped a Mercury Prize nomination for their acclaimed debut *Are You Satisfied?* and headlined the rite of passage *NME* tour last year.

They can even count The Streets' Mike Skinner among their admirers.

As 2016 ticks on, their assault on the airwaves shows no signs of slowing down with a double header of dates coming up at the Shepherd's Bush Empire.

The headline shows arrive off the back of a pulsating new album, *Take Control*, which crash-landed in September.

Barely a year after their debut hit the shelves, Slaves have wasted no time whatsoever – even after roping in Beastie Boys legend Mike D to help with the recording process.

Vincent said: "He became like another member of our band. We can safely call him our friend, which is surreal."

Preceded by the full-throttle single *Spit It Out*, the band's new record features a handful of similarly no-nonsense tracks – *Play Dead*, *Cold Hard Floor* and *Consume Or Be Consumed*, on which Mike D appears.

Not to be swayed by their sudden success, Vincent and Holman refused to sit back and pocket the plaudits.

Vincent said: "If you stop making music you stop being relevant. So we just cracked on."

The future may be bright for Slaves – but in their up-to-the-minute minds there's no time like the present.

Slaves perform at the O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire today, November 29, and tomorrow, November 30. The new album, *Take Control*, is out now.

Jack Dixon
previews
SLAVES
at Shepherd's
Bush



Kensington scientist bids to end UK's Eurovision glory drought

IS the BBC set to hit on the perfect way for us to win the Eurovision Song Contest for the first time in 20 years?

Following a run of disastrous entries from the UK – which last won Eurovision in 1997 with Katrina & The Waves' *Love Shine A Light* and which, despite being the European capital of music, has only won the contest five times in 60 years – a Kensington scientist may be coming up with a way to end our regular national embarrassment.

Armand Leroi, professor of evolutionary development biology at Imperial College, is to research the "science of pop" for BBC Four, to discover if he can find what the BBC calls the perfect pop song.

Working in collaboration with the BBC's research and development department, Professor Leroi will use data analysis of British pop music over the last 50 years to discover whether maths and machines can create the new *Can't Get Out Of My Head*.

"This special programme will uncover the major evolutions in chart music, find out

whether hit songs can be reduced to numbers and formulae and then put the results to the ultimate test," said a BBC spokesman.

"Last year, Professor Leroi published a remarkable study on the evolution of popular music in the USA 1960 to 2010. This was the first time the large-scale patterns of pop music had been statistically analysed – and the results hit the headlines."

They did indeed and among those headlines was some controversy in response to Professor Leroi claiming that The Beatles did not start the pop explosion in the USA in 1964



Professor Armand Leroi

with the release of *I Want To Hold Your Hand*.

"The music historians all talk about how The Beatles came to America and changed everything but it's entirely coincidental," he said.

"They didn't make a revolution or spark a revolution, they joined one. The trend is already emerging and they rode that wave, which accounts for their incredible success."

"The United States was already becoming rockier and more energetic, and moving away from mellow sounds like doo wop. You can already see that by the beginning of the 1960s."

"They were good-looking boys with great haircuts and British accents but as far as their music was concerned they weren't anything new."

However, Professor Leroi is now embarking on his second analysis, this time of British pop music, in a piece of research specially commissioned by BBC Four.

"Once the results are in, he will work to-

gether with hit producer Trevor Horn and his band to see if they can produce a hit single with the help of science," said the spokesman.

Naturally, given the nation's poor performance in Eurovision this century – since girl-group Precious finished 12th in 1999, the UK has failed to reach the top 10 in all but two of the last 18 contests – this new British invention will be much scrutinised to see if the pop boffin can find a way to calculate a smash at the top of the charts with *Algorithm You Need Is Love*, as a for-instance.

However, he may be wasting his time as the fail-safe method of writing a huge hit was discovered long ago by both Keith Richards and Paul McCartney – sleep on it.

Keith has always said that the riff for *Satisfaction* came to him in a dream, which was the same way that Paul got the melody for *Yesterday*.

The world waits agog to learn whether the appliance of science can top the success of either song.

On the buses... just the ticket to combat congestion, says

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON Mayor Sadiq Khan is to spend £50 million on the buses as part of a series of measures aimed at directly tackling growing congestion on the roads and improving reliability for all road users.

Transport for London will take immediate steps using new and improved strategic management, technology and communications to tackle the problem of congestion in London head-on, claims City Hall.

"The measures being announced include better communication directly with road users to allow them to plan their journeys, and better collaboration to reduce disruption from roadworks," said the Mayor's spokesman.

As part of the plans, the Mayor is also setting out specific measures to increase the reliability of bus services, including investing £50 million in bus priority schemes.

"The bus is London's most popular form of public transport and the most efficient motorised use of road space, with almost 2.4 billion journeys made by bus in the capital each year – half of all bus jour-



London's iconic buses remain the capital's favourite form of public transport, says the Mayor's Office, and now there are plans to promote their use further

Picture: SWNS

neys in England. Getting more people using buses will help tackle road congestion, and reversing the congestion that has caused bus passenger numbers to fall over the last few years is a key priority for

the Mayor," said the spokesman.

"As well as outlining measures to improve the reliability of bus services, the plans include reducing disruption caused by planned or un-

planned incidents, and improving journey time reliability so that all road journeys have minimum delay in any traffic conditions.

"The Government will also be lobbied for greater powers to manage road works, including increasing the scope of fixed penalty notices and legislating around the use of cranes and hoardings that impact on the road network."

Specific measures announced to tackle congestion include:

- Ensuring that the infrastructure that supports the road network, including traffic signals and road surfaces, is reliable, faults are minimised and repairs are carried out faster.

- Communicating better with road users to allow people to make more effective decisions about their journeys based on the most accurate and up-to-date information.

- Collaborating more efficiently with local authorities, utility companies and developers to reduce the impact of planned road works.

"The plans are targeted at easing the immediate congestion problems facing London. This is alongside other more long-term strategic approaches being developed as part of the Mayor's Transport Strategy, due to be published in Spring 2017," said the spokesman.

"The Mayor has already pledged to freeze all TfL fares for the next four years, making public transport a more affordable and attractive option for Londoners.

"The Mayor has also introduced the 'Hopper' bus fare which allows passengers to change buses within an hour, without paying an

additional fare. 10 million bus journeys have already benefited from the 'Hopper' fare.

"Cutting the cost of public transport will help achieve more efficient use of London's limited road space, as well as tackling poor air quality and promoting better health for Londoners. This is all part of the 'Healthy Streets' approach, with better cycling facilities and a continuing commitment to new cycling infrastructure helping Londoners get about quickly without having to use a car."

City Hall said that through campaigning for London's suburban rail services to be devolved to TfL, the Mayor also hopes to improve the quality and reliability of London's rail services – providing further incentives for Londoners to take the train rather than travel by car.

Mr Khan said: "Ensuring people can get around our city easily and efficiently is vital for London's future prosperity. We need to be much smarter in how we use our roads and tackle the causes of congestion head-on.

"I'm setting out practical and immediate steps we can take to reduce disruption, including better prioritising buses on our streets, better information for road users, and substantial improvements in how road works are coordinated.

"It's now crucial that these changes are implemented alongside our longer-term plans to make cycling and walking more appealing. Ultimately, while today's plan sets out some important practical steps, we can only tackle congestion in the long term by making public transport more affordable, and making cycling and walking more appealing choices for all Londoners."

Simon Moore, CBI Director for London & South, said: "To ensure London remains an attractive place to work and do business, it is vital that we have good quality and reliable infrastructure networks. With congestion across our road network highlighted as a top transport priority for firms, businesses will welcome the Mayor's package of measures to ease blockers across our roads.

"Greater collaboration between local boroughs, utility providers and developers and using technology more effectively to reduce traffic impacts are key short term solutions to improving our network. In the longer term, bolder solutions will be required to increase our deteriorating road capacity."

'Queen will pay bill for palace refurbishment'

AS people in vast numbers petition the Chancellor to make The Queen pay the £369 million needed to repair Buckingham Palace, an arch royalist has claimed that she and not the taxpayer will be the only one who coughs up, writes Geoff Baker.

As of last week, more than 120,000 had signed the petition calling on the Chancellor to "Make the royals pay for Palace renovation".

The petition, on the 38 Degrees site, states: "Buckingham Palace is about to be given a £369 million refurbishment. Taxpayers are paying for it. The Crown and its estates should be made to fund its own renovations.

"Why is this important? There is a national housing crisis, the NHS is in crisis, austerity is forcing cuts in many front line services. Now the Royals expect us to dig deeper to refurbish Buckingham Palace. The Crown's wealth is inestimable. This is, in a word, outrageous."

But, writing on the all-royals website royalcentral.co.uk, counter-claims have come from royalist Benjamin Knights, who says protestors who are furiously complaining about the cost of palace repairs have got it wrong.

He writes: "The media have attempted, and succeeded to mislead and fool the British public. There are now a great many people all over the country who are angry because they believe that they will be made to pay £369 million for repairs to Buckingham Palace. The media have of course created this whole situation. Only one British taxpayer will foot the bill for the work, and she is The Queen herself.

"In a tradition dating back to George III, the British monarch



It remains unclear whether Bob will get the palace job

always surrenders the profits from their own businesses, called the Crown Estate, to the government of the day. The Crown Estate is mainly a collection of properties in London and extensive agricultural land across the country. The monarch was always given a small sum of this money back to cover the costs of state events, such as royal tours abroad.

"In 2012, George Osborne reorganised this system, creating the Sovereign Grant. This effectively meant that The Queen paid an 85 per cent tax on her income. She received just 15 per cent of the profits from her own businesses, approximately £40 million, and was expected to fund the Royal Family's work with it.

"This makes The Queen the most taxed person on earth. "The Buckingham Palace repairs will be funded by a temporary increase in the Sovereign Grant. Instead of paying 85 per cent tax, The Queen will now pay 75 per cent tax. The public will not pay anything whatsoever to The Queen for the renovation, but they will benefit from a huge sum of money, paid by Britain's most generous taxpayer, to help with their failing public services.

"This 10 per cent increase in the money The Queen is allowed to keep from her own profits will be put to extraordinarily good use for the British taxpayer."

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Fulham restaurateur stages benefit for his home country

AFULHAM restaurant owner enlisted help from some of the biggest names in show business in a bid to raise money for the thousands of people left homeless by the Italian earthquakes.

Local celebrity Teo Catino, who runs the Il Pagliaccio restaurant in Wandsworth Bridge Road, staged an evening of entertainment in aid of the devastated communities in his home country.

West End star Madalena Alberto and top soprano Monique Loricchio were among the VIPs on the guest list.

Sunday's event was the latest in a long line of fundraising initiatives pioneered by Mr Catino, who moved to London 30 years ago.

He founded the annual Paggs Cup children's football tournament, which takes place every year in South Park, and recently helped to fund Hurlingham Boxing Club's new training ring.

In total, Mr Catino has raised around £300,000 for worthy causes in the community.

Now he is turning his attention to his home nation of Italy, which has been devastated by a series of major earthquakes over the last few months.

Mr Catino, who was born and raised in the town of Avellino, near Napoli, said: "I remember the quake in 1980 and seeing families who had lost everything they had. I had friends, brothers and sisters who were affected back then.

"So I know the feeling of what these people are going through now. That's why I wanted to help."

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said the nation's "soul was unsettled" after the biggest earthquake for more than 35 years struck the country last month.

Miraculously, no one was killed by the 6.6-magnitude quake but dozens were injured and more than 15,000 were left homeless.



The Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham Councillor Mercy Umeh was among the guests at the Il Pagliaccio restaurant to raise funds for Italian earthquake victims

It followed a smaller earthquake in August that also sent shockwaves around the country.

Mr Catino said he wanted to support the relief effort and help desperate families into temporary accommodation.

"We have to do our little bit here to change their lives," he added.

Guests at the charity music event were offered a set menu four-course dinner and a glass of Prosecco for £50, with proceeds going

towards the relief fund in Italy.

Diners were also treated to performances from pianist Tony Pappano, tenor Domenico Colonna and Broadway crooner Dr James Dooley during the star-studded evening.

A money-spinning auction, with prices including Chelsea football tickets, a Lotus race track test drive and a weekend's stay at the Lynton Hotel, were lined up as a further incentive for guests to donate to the cause.

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Paella with rabbit and snails

Serves 4-6



THIS dish is often misunderstood when copied, usually because the real thing has never been experienced or if it has it's been a tourist version.

What should go into a paella? Much depends on where you eat it. I've had it with all sorts of varying ingredients and whether you are inland or by the sea will determine the content. The colour will also depend on how much fish or meat goes into it. The best paellas are often the most unattractive-coloured ones often to be found in the most unusual places.

I came across this version with rabbit and snails in a place near Gerona, almost unreachable by road.

Ingredients

6 rabbit legs, chopped into pieces on the bone
60ml olive oil plus for the top
2 large onions, peeled, halved and finely chopped
4 cloves of garlic, peeled and crushed
5g thyme, roughly chopped
1 tsp saffron strands
150g wild mushrooms cut into even sized pieces
150-200g paella rice
1.5 ltrs chicken stock
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
16-20 good quality cooked snails, with or without their shells

Method

Put the pieces of rabbit into a saucepan with the stock, bring to the boil and simmer gently for about 45 minutes or until the rabbit is tender, then drain reserving the stock.

Preheat the oven to 200C/gas mark 6. Heat the olive oil in a wide, shallow saucepan or paella pan on the stove and gently cook the onions, garlic and thyme in the olive oil for 3-4 minutes without colouring. Add the pieces of rabbit and mushrooms and continue cooking for about 5 minutes allowing the rabbit and onions to colour a little. Add the saffron and rice and stir well. Pour in half the stock, season and place in the centre of the oven.

Once the rice has absorbed the stock, add the rest of the stock and continue to cook in the oven, stirring once or twice until the rice is tender. Remove from the oven and stir in the snails. Spoon over the rest of the oil and return to the oven for another 6-7 minutes adding a little more stock if required. The consistency of the paella should be fairly wet. You can turn the oven off and leave to sit in the pan for about 10 minutes to rest before serving.

You can pre-cook the rabbit in the stock the day or so before and leave in the stock in the fridge before straining and making the risotto.



Bringing home the bacon - for dessert

HESTON Blumenthal is launching yet another bizarrely flavoured Christmas product - a banana and bacon trifle.

The dessert, part of his Heston from Waitrose range, is a "rich, decadent trifle with layers of banana, caramel, chocolate and rum is topped with smoky bacon bits".

Heston has become notorious for his science wizardry, with other odd flavours including bacon and egg ice cream, snail porridge, and a fish eyeball cocktail.

He said: "When I was a kid, I remember eating a bacon and banana sandwich during one of my holidays.

"I loved how you wouldn't normally think of putting those two flavours together but they just worked so well.

"I can't wait to hear about people's reactions when they see and taste this fantastic dessert at their Christmas dinner table - it'll definitely be a talking point."

The trifle layers include a caramelised banana compote, topped with rum-soaked chocolate sponge, a layer of buttery, salted

caramel sauce, chocolate shavings, a creamy vanilla custard with a smoky bacon flavoured cream and sprinkles of gold cocoa nibs.

The trifle also comes with a sachet of bacon pieces for customers to add themselves.

Retro desserts have made a comeback recently, with sales of trifles



up 34 per cent compared to last year.

Aileen Wood, Waitrose dessert buyer said: "We've loved working with Heston to create a truly special trifle with a real sense of humour.

"His range of products at Waitrose often works with classic dishes he loved as a child, and this trifle is no exception.

"The bacon twist works incredibly well with the rest of the ingredients and fits perfectly into Heston's innovative range of Christmas sweet treats."

The trifle will initially launch in Waitrose shops as part of a meal deal, where it will be available in two packs of mini trifles for shoppers to try before they buy the larger version for Christmas.



Heston Blumenthal's Christmas treat - a banana trifle with bacon bits on the top

Talk of the town

FOLLOWING an immensely successful run at Theatre503, Stuart Slade's hard-hitting comedy *BU21* will transfer to the Trafalgar Studios in the new year, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

The play follows six Londoners in the aftermath of a fictitious terrorist attack.

It features dialogue based on real testimonies gathered from a variety of terrorist incidents including the 7/7 bombings, 9/11, the Paris attacks and the 2013 Westgate shopping mall attack.

Stuart Slade got the idea for the play after a searching conversation with his young daughter about the possible implications of a passenger plane crashing over the capital.

After an abundance of research, the playwright established that the idea of a plane being shot down by terrorists over West London was a frighteningly plausible one – and he decided to examine the possible ramifications.

Stuart said: "Whenever you flick on the news there seems to be yet another terrorist incident and my first reaction is the same as everyone else's – horror and pity for those involved.

"But there's a kind of second reaction which everyone has – how would I cope if that sort of thing happened to me? The play is an attempt to understand how individuals will cope and how London might cope, on a personal level, a political level and an emotional level."

BU21 is set in the immediate aftermath of the

atrocity, with the story, which spans a year, told through six interlinking monologues.

Stuart said: "I wanted to make sure that the stories that we told were representative but authentic as well, so I spent more than a year researching similar stories."

Stuart also extensively examined post traumatic stress disorder and the mechanisms of coping with anguish in order to give a full account of the consequences.

"I felt it was important for this production to be about more than just the terrorism and to talk about how people cope with traumatic experiences in their lives, no matter what those experiences may be. Some of the characters have lost family members, some of them are injured themselves and it's the shock of what they have seen.

"There are some graphic scenes of what the impact of that type of attack could be and I thought it was important not to shy away from that, but also it's important to say that it's a comedy.

"What was unexpected when we started to do the research was that people have huge reserves of courage and strength that they potentially don't know they have."

The piece examines the social and political implications of this type of horrific attack, but also attempts to leave room for optimism and hope.

BU21 will run at Trafalgar Studio2 from January 11 to February 18. For more information, visit atgtickets.com.

The play is set in the aftermath of a plane being downed by terrorists over West London

Hard-hitting comedy
BU21
transfers to
Trafalgar Studios



Lord's take on film really rocks

School Of Rock
New London Theatre

IT'S become increasingly uncool to say you are fan of Andrew Lloyd Webber's work – but for a musical-theatre fan whose love of the genre was nurtured during the early 1990s, I can happily say that I'm a disciple, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

With *The Phantom Of The Opera* celebrating its 30th year in the West End last month and the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* receiving universal critical acclaim, there's never been a better time for the theatrical Lord to showcase his newest foray.

Following a hugely successful run on Broadway, the virtuoso brings his stage adaptation of *School Of Rock* to the New London Theatre – and the show, with a cast of prodigiously talented young musicians, proves a wonderment of modern musical theatre.

Based on the 2003 film, which starred Jack Black, *School Of Rock* follows a down-and-out rock star wannabe called Dewey Finn (David Fynn), who, in financial dire straits, fraudulently takes a job as a substitute teacher in a well-to-do private school.



After establishing his complete lack of aptitude as an educator he stumbles across an idea to form a rock band, using his talented class, in order to win a battle-of-the-bands competition and relaunch his showbusiness career.

Fynn is superb as the sweaty, overweight oaf Dewey and brings much more appeal to the role than Black's rather annoying film portrayal. His cast of colleagues and associates deliver excellent support, with Florence Andrews providing a classy performance as the prim headteacher who is hiding her innermost rock chick.

Musically there's a real feel of *Whistle Down The Wind*, with wailing guitars and chromatics on the keyboards making up the main body of

the score. It's the teeny-weeny music stars that are the real boon of the show, however, with the pre-teen cast transforming into rock gods. Their live instrumental performances show an abundance of raw talent, which even the house band stop to applaud, such is the aptitude of the mini maestros.

With impressive stage design by Anna Louizos and a veritable feast of earworms, which will leave you humming the soundtrack for days after your visit, *School Of Rock* is an almost guaranteed hit and is definitely one of my recommendations for a family Christmas theatre trip.

School Of Rock is playing at the New London Theatre. For more information, visit uk.schoolofrockthemusical.com.

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Talk of the town

Reworked show will captivate you



Picture:
Manual
Harlen

Half A Sixpence
Noel Coward Theatre

HALF A Sixpence was first performed back in 1963 at the New Wimbledon Theatre and starred the inimitable Tommy Steele as the lovable draper Arthur Kipps, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

The show established Steele's legendary status, and the hit song *Flash, Bang, Wallop* (which was written in the piano bar at the South London venue) became a musical-theatre standard.

More than 50 years later the classic musical has received an update, which will satisfy a new generation of theatre-goers, while maintaining all of the original charm and tradition of the show.

Julian Fellowes has teamed up with the songwriting duo Stiles & Drewe to create a fresh, fulsome and thoroughly captivating show, which, like the original production, is set to make a star of its leading man.

Charlie Stemp leads the cast with a truly memorable performance as orphan Kipps, who after inheriting a fortune leaves behind his simple life to climb the social ladder.

A real old-fashioned song-and-dance man with

boundless energy, Stemp's graceful dancing and heart-warming delivery are inspiring and will surely earn the young performer countless accolades in the future.

Devon-Elise Johnson is similarly exuberant as Kipps' childhood sweetheart Ann Pornick, and Emma Williams emanates a regal elegance as Helen Walsingham.

Stiles & Drewe's reworking of the score has kept the demonstrative knees-up style, with the big production numbers (the brand new *Pick Out A Simple Tune* and the classic *Flash, Bang, Wallop*) perfectly illustrated through Andrew Wright's exhilarating choreography.

Paul Brown's impressive set design further adds to the feeling of awe and enables the cast to whip the audience into an excited frenzy.

Half A Sixpence is a beautifully worked production, which boasts a stunning cast and a huge amount of traditional musical-theatre charm.

It will put a spring in your step and leave you with a warm glow this winter.

Half A Sixpence is running at the Noel Coward Theatre. For more information, visit halfasixpence.co.uk.



The play will run for a limited two-week season

MART CROWLEY's groundbreaking play *The Boys In The Band* is heading back to the West End almost 20 years since it was last revived. Following a sellout run at Park Theatre, the production will open at the Vaudeville Theatre on February 7, playing for a limited two-week season.

The Boys In The Band sold out its entire five-week run at Park Theatre, garnered critical and public acclaim, and subsequently enjoyed a brief UK tour to Salford, Brighton and Leeds. Directed by Adam Penford (*A Small Family Business* and *One Man, Two Guvnors*, and recently appointed artistic director of Nottingham Playhouse), the production stars Olivier Award winner Mark Gatiss as Harold alongside his husband Ian Hallard as Michael – this will represent the first time in West End history that a male married couple will appear on stage together.

There's a party about to commence when nine men gather in a New York apartment for a birthday celebration. Harold, a self-confessed

Jew fairy, receives a surprise birthday gift – a beautiful male hustler dubbed Cowboy. Meanwhile, party host Michael gets an unwanted surprise of his own in the shape of a figure from his past. As the booze is drunk and the dope smoked, the mood swings from hilarity to heartbreak.

West End musical-theatre star Daniel Boys plays Donald, Jack Derges, recently seen as the mysterious Andy Flynn in *EastEnders*, is Cowboy, *Miranda* star James Holmes plays Emory, *Midsomer Murders*' John Hopkins is Alan, Greg Lockett plays Bernard, *Primeval*'s Ben Mansfield is Larry and *Undercover*'s Nathan Nolan plays Hank.

Producer Tom O'Connell said: "We are thrilled that audiences have taken this show to their hearts in such a big way; with limited availability from our stellar cast I am pleased that we have found a suitable West End home for this fantastic production. We also have more than 150 tickets available at every performance at £20, making it accessible for all to enjoy. With only 15 performances, this really is

the last chance to catch the play which shook the LGBT world."

Gatiss and Hallard said: "We've had an amazing time bringing this great play to a whole new generation of theatre-goers. The response from audiences, young and old, gay and straight, has proved that *Boys* retains its power to move people to laughter and tears. It's wonderful to say that we'll be capping the experience with a West End transfer – so the party continues."

From the producers of the critically acclaimed revivals of *Beautiful Thing*, *Our Boys* and *Another Country*, and the forthcoming stage adaptation of *Brokeback Mountain*, comes this eagerly anticipated revival of Crowley's seminal piece, which premiered in 1968 just before the Stonewall riots. This witty, dark American play, which changed the landscape of gay theatre, was adapted into a film in 1970, becoming a cult hit.

The Boys In The Band will play at the Vaudeville Theatre from February 7 to 18. For more details, visit BoysBandPlay.com.

MACMILLAN Cancer Support is hosting its prestigious Guards Chapel Christmas Carol Concert again this year.

Hosted by Macmillan vice-president Martyn Lewis CBE, the soiree will include readings from a variety of Macmillan's celebrity supporters, such as Vanessa Redgrave and Mary Beard, as well as music from some of the classical world's most talented stars.

It is the perfect way to kick-off the Christmas season.

Performers will include cellists Guy Johnston and Sheku

Kanneh-Mason who have both been named BBC Young Musicians of the Year, in 2000 and 2016 respectively.

Trumpeter Lucienne Renaudin-Vary will also perform for guests in the beautiful setting of the Guards Chapel.

Also performing will be the London Contemporary Orchestra and the Band of the Scots Guards.

The audience will also be invited to join the Royal Military Chapel Choir in singing festive carols.

The concert is followed by the opportunity to enjoy champagne and

canapes in the officers' mess after the evening's entertainment.

One of the most prestigious events in Macmillan's annual calendar, the evening is sponsored by BMO Global Asset Management.

All funds raised will be used to help Macmillan ensure that no-one faces cancer alone this Christmas.

Tickets for this magical evening at the Guards Chapel at Wellington Barracks start at £40.

For more information, visit macmillan.org.uk/guardschapel.



Talk of the town

AFTER last year's hugely successful production of the classic pantomime *Cinderella*, the Lyric, Hammersmith, is once again putting its very particular spin on a traditional story, writes Nicky Sweetland.

This time it's the beloved *Aladdin* which is wowing audiences at the West London Theatre.

Lyric alumni Karl Queensborough is leading the cast in the well-known rags-to-riches story of the street urchin who happens upon a magic lamp.

The story has been adapted by Joel Horwood. And rather than being set, as is traditional, in the Far East, it is firmly London-based.

Star of the show Karl, who was previously part of the junior ensemble at the Lyric before undertaking professional training, plays the eponymous hero.

He said: "It's set in Central London and the writer has done a clever thing. He's mixed together Hammersmith, Fulham and Shepherd's Bush to make a place called Fulhamerbush."

Karl, who played Prince Charming in last year's acclaimed production of *Cinderella*, said: "I had such a blast last

time in *Cinderella* and to be asked back was really nice."

He is joined by comedian Vicki Stone, who plays the evil Abanazer in the tale which has been given a very city feel. As is now expected from the Lyric's pantomimes, there is an abundance of local references and a general feeling of cool.

Karl said: "Aladdin is, kind of, a ninja thief, so it's a bit like a Robin Hood thing; he steals from the rich to give to the poor. Aladdin and his brother Wishy Washy are always getting into trouble with their mum and he's a real cheeky chappy."

There is a mixture of musical genres interspersed within the action and a level of humour to tickle every age.

With plenty of audience participation, spectacular stage effects and even a flying carpet, *Aladdin* is a perfect family treat this Christmas and is not to be missed.

Aladdin runs at the Lyric, Hammersmith, until January 7. For more information, visit lyric.co.uk.

Karl Queensborough as Aladdin in rehearsals at the Lyric, Hammersmith

Picture: Helen Murray



It's panto time with
ALADDIN
at Lyric, Hammersmith

Legend joins La Cage Aux Folles

ONE of the West End's most revered leading ladies, television star and recording artist Marti Webb, will join the cast of *La Cage Aux Folles* when it embarks on a UK tour next year.

The legendary songstress, pictured, will play owner of the restaurant Chez Jacqueline alongside the previously announced John Partridge and Adrian Zmed in the musical, which will visit the New Wimbledon Theatre in March.

Webb has played leading roles in numerous West End and touring musicals including *Evita*, *Godspell*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Blood Brothers*, *Oliver*, *Oklahoma*, *42nd Street* and *Half A Sixpence*.

She received huge critical acclaim for her unforgettable performance in *Tell Me On A Sunday*, which was written specifically for her by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black. She has recorded nine solo albums and had many hit singles, including *Always There*, the theme from the hit BBC series *Howard's Way*, and the smash hit *Take That Look off Your Face*.

Written by Harvey Fierstein and Jerry Herman, and based on the 1973 French play of the same name by Jean Poiret, *La Cage Aux Folles* follows the story of Georges, the manager of a Saint Tropez nightclub, and his partner Albin, a drag



artiste and the club's star attraction. They live an idyllic existence in the south of France – but behind the curtains of this sparkling extravaganza, all may be about to change when Georges' son Jean-Michel announces his engagement to the daughter of a notorious right-wing politician determined to close down the local colourful nightlife. Drama and hilarity ensue when a meeting of the parents forces them to cover up their vibrant lifestyle. Will Albin be able to play the role of his life to ensure that Jean-Michel can marry his love?

La Cage Aux Folles is a multi-award-winning musical.

The original Broadway production became an instant smash hit when it opened in 1983.

It received nine nominations for Tony Awards and won six, including best musical, best score and best book.

The success of the musical spawned a London Palladium production and several international runs. The 2004 Broadway revival won the Tony Award for best revival, and

the 2008 London revival garnered the Laurence Olivier Award for best musical revival.

Setting out on its first UK tour, the new production is produced by Bill Kenwright, directed by Martin Connor, choreographed by Olivier Award winner Bill Deamer, and designed by Gary McCann, with sound by Dan Samson and musical direction by Mark Crossland.

The score includes *The Best Of Times*, *Song On The Sand* and the iconic *I Am What I Am*.

For more information about the production, visit kenwright.com.

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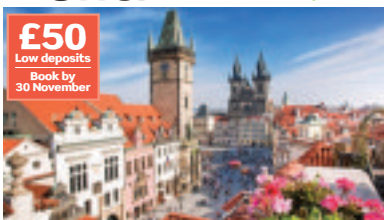
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Public Notices

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(GLENTHORNE ROAD)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC**

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility installation works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which suspends the eastbound bus lane in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the eastbound bus on Glenthorne Road, between no. 40 Glenthorne Road and Overstone Road shall be suspended.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 28th November 2016 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Monday 28th November 2016 and last for 7 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 25th day of November 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(MUNSTER ROAD)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC**

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water repair works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits northbound traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed northbound, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Munster Road between its junctions with Fulham Road and Feldon Street.
3. 2 alternative routes for northbound traffic in article 2 would be provided;
 - (i) For vehicles travelling westbound on Fulham Road - a diversion would be in place via Fulham Road, Durell Road and Hestercombe Avenue,
 - (ii) For vehicles travelling Eastbound on Fulham Road - a diversion would be in place via Rostrevor Road, Swift Street and Feldon Street.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 3rd December 2016 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Saturday 3rd December 2016 and last for 3 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 25th day of November 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

**ERICA NEUHAUS
(Deceased)**

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 034 Nell Gwynn House, Sloane Avenue, London SW3 3AU, who died on 25/09/2016, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 06/02/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Portrait Solicitors, 21 Whitefriars Street, London EC4Y 8JJ.
Ref: SJH/Neuhaus/299646.01

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Transport for London Notice

THE A501 GLA ROAD (OLD MARYLEBONE ROAD, CITY OF WESTMINSTER) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND STOPPING) ORDER 2016

1. Transport for London having consulted the City of Westminster hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
2. The purpose of the Order is to enable drainage installation works to take place A501 Old Marylebone Road.
3. The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from:
 - (1) entering, exiting or proceeding on Chapel Street from outside No. 48 Chapel Street and its junction with Old Marylebone Road (local access will be maintained between its junction with Transept Street and No.48 Chapel Street);
 - (2) exiting on Harcourt Street at its junction with Old Marylebone Road (local access will be maintained to Harcourt Street between its junctions with York Street and Old Marylebone Road);
 - (3) stopping on Old Marylebone Road from No. 302 Old Marylebone Road to a point opposite its junction with Homer Row;

The Order will also

- (4) suspend one-way operation on Harcourt Street between its junction with York Street and No. 16 Harcourt Street to make it two-way operational;
- (5) suspend one-way operation on York Street between its junctions with Seymour Place and Harcourt Street to make it two-way operational;
- (6) provide local access only on York Street between its junctions of Seymour Place and Harcourt Street.

The Order will be effective between 9th January 2017 and 27th January 2017, each night from 10.00 PM to 5.00 AM or when those works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.

4. The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
 - (1) any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
 - (2) anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
5. At such times as the prohibitions are in force alternative routes will be indicated by traffic signs via: **(for vehicles wishing to enter Old Marylebone Road from Chapel Street)** Transept Street onto normal route of travel; **(For vehicles wishing to enter Old Marylebone Road from Harcourt)** Seymour Place, Marylebone Road or Seymour Place, Crawford Street onto normal route of travel.

Dated this 29th day of November 2016

Mufu Duwoju
Network Impact Management Team - Manager,
Road Space Management-Operations,
Transport for London, Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

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Public Notices

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE A3 GLA ROAD (KING WILLIAM STREET AND LONDON BRIDGE, CITY OF LONDON AND LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND STOPPING) ORDER 2015 VARIATION ORDER 2016

1. Transport for London hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Traffic Order under sections 14(1), (5), (7) and 15(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
2. The Order may be cited as The A3 GLA Road (King William Street and London Bridge, City of London and London Borough of Southwark) (Temporary Prohibition of Traffic and Stopping) Order 2015 Variation Order 2016 and shall come into force on the 2nd January 2017.
3. Article 3 (5) of The A3 GLA Road (King William Street and London Bridge, City of London and London Borough of Southwark) (Temporary Prohibition of Traffic and Stopping) Order 2015a is replaced by the provisions of the Order to enable taxis to use the northbound at any time bus lane on London Bridge between its junctions with Borough High Street and a point 70 metres south of Arthur Street on any day between 7am and 3pm.

Dated this 29th day of November 2016

Mufu Durowoju

**Network Impact Management Team Manager,
Road Space Management - Operations, Transport for
London, Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ**

MAYOR OF LONDON



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Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE GLA ROADS AND GLA SIDE ROADS (WESTMINSTER) RED ROUTE CONSOLIDATION TRAFFIC ORDER 2008 A4202 GLA ROAD (PARK LANE) VARIATION ORDER 2016

1. Transport for London hereby gives notice that on 22nd November 2016 it made the above named Order, under section 6 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Order will come into force on 1st December 2016.
2. The general nature and effect of the Order will be to:
 - (1) relocate the bus stop on the western arm of A4202 Park Lane and opposite Nos.64-80 A4202 Park Lane by 30 metres north-westwards;
 - (2) install a 30 metre coach parking bay on the western arm of A4202 Park Lane and opposite Nos.64-70 A4202 Park Lane.
3. The road which would be affected by the Order is A4202 Park Lane.
4. A copy of the Order, a map indicating the location and effect of the Order and copies of any Order revoked, suspended or varied by the Order can be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of:

- Transport for London Streets Traffic Order Team (RSM/PI/STOT)
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road
London, SE1 8NJ
- WSP
Parsons Brinckerhoff
10th Floor
Westminster City Hall
64 Victoria Street
London SW1E 6QP

5. Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or of any of its provisions on the grounds that they are not within the relevant powers conferred by the Act or that any requirement of the Act has not been complied with, that person may, within six weeks from the date on which the Order is made, make application for the purpose to the High Court.

Dated this 29th day of November 2016

Mufu Durowoju

**Network Impact Management Team Manager,
Transport for London, Palestra,
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Local Planning Applications

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham



PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA
Flat Ground Floor 22 Bryony Road London W12 0SS

2016/04954/FUL
Retention of an extension to the existing outbuilding in the rear garden at ground floor level.

The Underbrook 58 Milson Road London W14 0LB
2016/04983/FUL

Reduce the size of bin & bike store floor area to allow an increase in floorspace for ground floor A3 unit; installation of external lights and retractable awnings fronting Milson Road and Porten Road elevations;

installation of 3no boiler flue extracts and 1no stale air ventilation exhaust to the rear elevation at second floor level; installation of 1no boiler flue at roof level.

The Queens Club Palliser Road London W14 9EQ
2016/05029/VAR

Variation of condition 3 and 4 of planning permission ref: 2016/02516/FUL granted 28th July 2016 to allow amendments to external surfaces layout, external surfaces materials and relocation of car charging points.

The Queens Club Palliser Road London W14 9EQ
2016/05030/VAR

Variation of condition 2, 4 and 6 of planning permission ref: 2016/03397/FUL granted 19th October 2016 to allow the roof of the security building to change to natural slate tiles, the window cills of the security building to change to precast concrete and the colour of the gates to change to steel blue.

Flat 2 Old Courthouse 45 North End Road London W14 8SZ
2016/05049/FUL
Erection of a ground floor rear extension, erection of a first floor extension and installation of obscure glass privacy screens in connection with the creation of two new roof terraces at first floor level; insertion of a mezzanine floor above the kitchen; associated internal and external alterations.

Riverside Studios And Queens Wharf Crisp Road London W6 2016/04631/ADV
Display of non-illuminated advert affixed to the hoarding adjacent next to Chancellors Wharf.

835 Fulham Road London SW6 5HQ
2016/04873/FUL

Retention of a new shopfront and awning to front elevation.

Flora Gardens Primary School Dalling Road London W6 0UD
2016/04813/ADV

Display of a non illuminated advertisement along the fence panelling attached to the railings of the school entrance facing Dalling Road.

St Simons Church Rockley Road London W14 0DA
2016/04862/FUL

Removal of existing lead roofing to flat roof lean-to

and gutter, and replacement with new batten rolled stainless steel roofing; remedial timber facing work to existing leaking dormer windows above roof, repairs and re-pointing to existing stone parapet above flat roof; associated external alterations.

212B Fulham Palace Road London W6 9NT
2016/04879/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roof slope; bricking up of 1no high level window at second floor level to the rear elevation.

24 New King's Road London SW6 4SA
2016/05001/FUL

Change of use of ground and first floors from retail (Class A1) into a one bedroom self-contained residential flat (Class C3) Inner Lodge St Mary's Cemetery Harrow Road London NW10 5NH

2016/04848/FUL
Replacement of existing railings with new railings and installation of new entrance gates to the north eastern corner of St Mary's Cemetery.

The Cross Keys 57 Black Lion Lane London W6 9BG
2016/04963/FUL

Installation of extract ducting attached to the side of rear back addition and mounted on top of the flat roof at first floor level enclosed with brickwork cladding.

93 - 97 Lillie Road London SW6 7SX
2016/04836/FUL

Demolition of the existing buildings and the erection of a four storey building for use as a mixed-use development comprising of Class (A1) retail at ground floor level and 3 x 1 bedroom and 3 x 2 bedroom self contained flats at first, second and third floor levels.

44 Lysia Street London SW6 6NG
2016/04976/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition;

erection of a part one, part two storey rear extension at ground and first floor level; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the extended back addition; excavation of the rear garden to form a lightwell in connection with the creation of a new basement.

4 Rigault Road London SW6 4JL
2016/05033/TPO

Fell to ground level of 2 no. Lime Trees in the front garden, subject to Tree Preservation Order TPO/230/6/97.

See supporting documents for reasons and justification
58 Rowallan Road London SW6 6AG
2016/05012/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension; installation of a new entrance door to side elevation facing Bronsart Road.

Dorncliffe House 2A Dorncliffe Road London SW6 5LF
2016/04522/FUL

Erection of an additional floor including the formation of a roof terrace at roof level.

13 Atwood Road London W6 0HX
2016/04882/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level; and erection of a rear extension at second floor level, over part of the existing back addition.

37 Aldensley Road London W6 0DH
2016/04883/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level, over part of the existing back addition; replacement of existing dormer window in the rear roof extension with French doors and a Juliet balcony; and relocation of existing rooflight in the front roof slope.

104 Langthorne Street London SW6 6JX
2016/04745/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roof slope; erection of an external staircase and installation of a new door at first floor level to the side of rear back addition.

Flat First Floor 54 Aspenlea Road London W6 8LJ
2016/04922/FUL

Installation of 3no rooflights in the front roof slope and 2no rooflights in the rear roof slope.

Flat Ground Floor 102 Netherwood Road London W14 0BQ
2016/04977/FUL

Erection of a two storey full width rear extension and excavation of a lower ground floor level extension with associated rear lightwell.

Flat 1 Basement 145 Hammersmith Grove London W6 0NJ
2016/04998/FUL

Installation of new doors and windows to the rear elevation and new windows to the front elevation to replace the existing at basement level.

14 Ellaline Road London W6 9NZ
2016/04997/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension; and excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of a new basement.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT
St Simons Church Rockley Road London W14 0DA
2016/04863/LBC

Removal of existing lead roofing to flat roof lean-to and gutter, and replacement with new batten rolled stainless steel roofing; remedial timber facing work to existing leaking dormer windows above roof, repairs and re-pointing to existing stone parapet above flat roof; associated external alterations.

Flat 2 Old Courthouse 45 North End Road London W14 8SZ
2016/05050/LBC

Erection of a ground floor rear extension, erection of a first floor extension and installation of obscure glass privacy screens in connection with the creation of two new roof terraces at first floor level; creation of glazed rooflight to ground floor living room; insertion of a mezzanine floor above the kitchen; replacement of existing windows and doors with new enlarged doors to new ground floor extension; installation of new staircase to first floor extension; installation of new walls and door to master bedroom; associated internal and external alterations.

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING
Flat 2 Old Courthouse 45 North End Road London W14 8SZ
2016/05049/FUL

Erection of a ground floor rear extension, erection of a first floor extension and installation of obscure glass privacy screens in connection with the creation of two new roof terraces at first floor level; insertion of a mezzanine floor above the kitchen; associated internal and external alterations.

St Simons Church Rockley Road London W14 0DA
2016/04862/FUL

Removal of existing lead roofing to flat roof lean-to and gutter, and replacement with new batten rolled stainless steel roofing; remedial timber facing work to existing leaking dormer windows above roof, repairs and re-pointing to existing stone parapet above flat roof; associated external alterations.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 19th December 2016. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013
NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 19th December 2016. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page. You can also E-mail comments to: plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk

You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office

RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6

between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays. If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ENVIRONMENT**

DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081 or 020 8753 1082.**

lbhf.gov.uk/planning

planning Online

Send us your comments about planning applications via our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning

Hammersmith & Fulham Council

Email your sports news, reports and pictures to Tony McDonald at sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

sport

Ollie's honeymoon more like fumbling one-night stand

THE 1,200-plus exasperated Queens Park Rangers followers who witnessed Saturday's 3-0 debacle at Ipswich Town may be wondering if Ian Holloway's honeymoon period was really no more than a fumbling one-night stand.

Just a week after a rousing, emotional 2-1 victory over Norwich City at Loftus Road gave Rangers' reappointed manager the best possible homecoming, all hope of a quick East Anglian double vanished at Portman Road.

There, a goal each from Grant Ward, Luke Varney and Tom Lawrence brought QPR crashing back down to earth despite their first-half superiority.

The Tractor Boys won the SkyBet Championship encounter 3-0.

This biggest home win for Mick McCarthy's team in almost two years lifted them four places up the table, to 14th, and above Rangers, who slipped to 15th.

Let's be clear, Ipswich are a poor side and their long-ball mantra is not easy on the eye.

They had failed to score in seven of their previous 10 Championship games, and have won only two out of nine in front of their own fans, but they could have had plenty more against generous visitors bearing gifts.

Ipswich's first goal, on 13 minutes, was scuffed by Ward and just about dribbled over the goal-line.

And there was a slice of good fortune about the third, that fell kindly at the feet of Lawrence after a long-range shot from Cole Skuse had been blocked in the 61st minute.

The second goal, nine minutes after the restart, was the killer blow.

Rangers' keeper Alex Smithies came sprinting out of his penalty area like a thirsty wedding guest responding to the last-orders bell at the bar. In trying to head clear a straight, overhit through-ball from Jonathan Douglas, he only succeeded in skimming it into the path of the onrushing Varney, who had the easiest of gifts to roll the ball into the unguarded net.

If Holloway was fuming at his errant keeper, he did very well to disguise his feelings immediately after this game.

"It's not his (Smithies') fault," he said. "Alex is a fantastic goalkeeper. It's not about that, it's about the support we didn't give him. We should have given him an angle."

QPR keeper Alex Smithies was badly at fault for the second goal at Ipswich but had the backing of his manager Ian Holloway

Picture: Rob Newell



Perhaps he was just being kind. To be fair to Smithies, though, he put that individual howler behind him and did well to keep the defeat to a three-goal margin as Ipswich grew in confidence in the last half-hour. And it's not as if he has a reputation for committing calamitous errors.

But even Holloway had to agree: "The game switched on the second goal. Unfortunately, the spirit of my team just went after that. "It's very disappointing – but goals change games. Even if we'd got one back, things might have changed but, instead, they got their confidence from the goals."

For all that QPR were the better side in the first half, Holloway must have been disappointed to see his play-

ers apparently throw in the towel after conceding the second goal.

OK, so the absence of Massimo Luongo due to illness was a blow to midfield thrust and creativity, especially as it meant a recall for the maligned and defensive Karl Henry.

But apart from substitute Sandro slamming his header from a Tjaronn Chery corner against a post in the 76th minute and a smart low stop by Town keeper Bartosz Bialkowski denying Conor Washington, they never looked like getting back into it.

"We were far too fragile – we need to stick together," said Holloway, who probably had a word in the ear of James Perch, who should have received a second yellow card for a needless, reckless challenge on half-time that sent Lawrence sprawling into the advertising hoardings.

Holloway and his players

won't have long to dwell on what went wrong at Ipswich, or to put matters right, before Wolverhampton Wanderers visit W12 on Thursday night (7.45pm).

"There's a lot of work to do but that's what I'm here for," he said.

"We've got to get ourselves up for our very next game. Today's over and I can use it as a learning tool.

"Last week (against Norwich) was great, this week isn't."

"Let's see what we can do next week."

Wolves may well prove ideal opponents with which to banish the Ipswich blues. The Black Country club are languishing in 21st position, separated from the bottom three only by goal-difference, and have not managed to win any of their last nine matches.

But then last Saturday should have been a very good time to go to Ipswich.

Tony McDonald

Pink shirts for T20 matches and soon we'll see pink balls used in the County Championship. Tom Helm bowling for Middlesex in last season's T20 Blast

Picture: Rob Newell



County Championship to feature pink balls

DAY-NIGHT County Championship matches with pink balls – just one of the new delights awaiting cricket supporters next summer.

The experimental full round of nine four-day games under lights will be played for the first time from June 26 to 29, when Division One champions Middlesex travel to Chelmsford to face Essex and Surrey will take on Yorkshire at Headingley.

It is expected that England players will be made available for these matches as ideal preparation for the first day-night Test to be played in this country, against West Indies at Edgbaston next August.

Last week's release of the 2017 domestic fixture lists confirmed that Middlesex will begin their defence of the title against Hampshire at Southampton on April 14 – a week after Surrey get their campaign under way against Warwickshire at The Kia Oval.

The first Specsavers County Championship match to be played at Lord's next term sees Middlesex host promoted Essex, starting on April 21.

The first London derby of 2017 will bring Surrey to the Home of Cricket on Friday, May 19, with the return clash at The Oval scheduled to begin on Monday, August 28.

All eight teams in Division One will meet each other once home and away. The number of Sunday starts for Championship matches has been reduced for 2017, with most games starting either on Fridays or Mondays.

Our two local clubs will meet in the Royal London One-Day Cup at The Oval on Friday, May 5.

Moving the 50-over One-Day Cup to April and May, with the final at Lord's on July 1, means the competition will follow a similar schedule to the old Benson & Hedges Cup, which ran from 1975 to 2002.

Middlesex's opening home NatWest T20 Blast clash in 2017 sees Dawid Malan's men going head-to-head with Surrey under the floodlights at Lord's on Thursday, July 13. The rivals will meet again in the return fixture at The Oval on Friday, July 21.

The group stage of the T20 Blast, which began in May in 2016, will run from early July to August 18. The quarter-finals will then be played from August 22 to 25, with Finals Day – again being staged at Edgbaston – on September 2, two weeks later than this year.

Blues snatch away point

CHELSEA'S development squad continued their good form, twice coming from behind to earn a 2-2 draw at Manchester City on Saturday.

Lukas Nmecha scored for City before Ike Ugbo levelled. Thierry Ambrose put the home side back in the lead but Mason Mount snatched a last-minute goal to ensure a share of the spoils.

Chelsea are now in fourth place in Premier League 2. Jody Morris' under-18s beat West London rivals Fulham 2-0 at Motspur Park on Saturday. Luke McCormick and Martell Taylor-Crossdale notched the goals that secured all three points.

London Weekly News

SPORT

Tuesday November 29 2016

● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427



Eden Hazard and Chelsea were celebrating again on Saturday, when Blues maintained top spot in the Premier League with a thrilling home win that ended Spurs' unbeaten run

Picture: Rob Newell



Fulham scorer Kevin McDonald receives a lecture from the referee but it was Brighton who had the last word
Picture: Rob Newell

Reading will put Whites to the test

Focus on Craven Cottage

AFTER losing the lead and all three points at Brighton & Hove Albion, Fulham face another stern examination of their Championship play-off credentials when they host in-form Reading at Craven Cottage on Saturday (3pm).

Under the impressive management of former Manchester United and Holland centre-back Jaap Stam, Reading have rapidly risen to third place in the table on the back of five straight wins – and in four of those victories they kept clean sheets.

Fulham slipped two places, to 10th, after going down 2-1 at second-placed Brighton, who extended their unbeaten run to 12 matches.

The visitors were rewarded for their first-half dominance on Saturday when midfielder Kevin McDonald gave them a deserved lead in the 18th minute. It was a tame goal for Brighton to concede. An inswinging corner was headed in by McDonald – his third goal of the season – at the far post as keeper David Stockdale sank to his knees.

The ex-Fulham goalie was forced into making a couple of flying saves to deny Floyd Ayite and Scott Malone, otherwise Whites could have been out of sight before half-time.

But Seagulls, who haven't lost since Brentford won on the South Coast on September 10, were much improved after the break and took another win thanks to volleyed goals by Sam Baldock and Glenn Murray.

There was little Fulham keeper David Button could do about Baldock's strike, from the edge of the box, that travelled through a crowded penalty area. But Whites' back line was guilty of playing the unmarked Murray inside from a left-wing cross, leaving him a simple unchanged finish from 10 yards.

Having enjoyed greater possession and had more shots and corners than Brighton, it was an awful way for Fulham to lose the game.

Whites' head coach Slavisa Jokanovic said: "We created many chances but we didn't find the end product, we didn't put the ball in the net. We conceded two very cheap goals and paid a hard price."

"OK, if you don't score the goals, then concentrate more and make sure you don't concede the kind of goal that we conceded today."

"It's frustrating that we weren't clinical enough in the first 45 minutes. In the second-half I didn't feel that they dominated us and made so many chances. But the half-chances they made resulted in two goals, which was the complete opposite to us."

"It's a hard punishment for myself and our away supporters but we have to be brave and believe in ourselves and each other, and push hard."

"It's an ugly afternoon for us. We are not happy but we are going to try to play similar in the next game."

"I believe we are making progress and playing very good football. We created enough to go back to London with some points. But we didn't do it."

Reading will present a tough test, and will only be encouraged by Fulham's dire home record that has seen them win just twice in nine games at the Cottage.

Tony McDonald

Seven-up Blues bubbling

Hazard warning to watch out for De Bruyne

CHelsea
This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

By Paul Lagan

EDEN Hazard is keen to keep Chelsea's winning streak going when they visit Manchester City on Saturday (12.30pm) and is aware that his Belgium international team-mate Kevin De Bruyne could be the key man for their title rivals.

Blues sit pretty on top of the Premier League having dispatched previously unbeaten Spurs 2-1 on Saturday to make it seven wins on the spin. They came from behind through a wonder strike from Pedro and a Victor Moses drive.

Next up at the Etihad Stadium, Blues will face third-placed City, who are just one point away from the West Londoners and level with Liverpool. Hazard is looking forward to the challenge.

Can they keep their winning run going?

"I don't know," said Hazard. "On Saturday we go to Manchester City, a good opponent. We will see. We will try to keep going like this. We don't want to stop now. We are full of confidence and we want to win every game."

"We know it is always difficult to win there. They have a lot of good players, like (Sergio) Aguero and (Kevin) De Bruyne. I hope it will be a good game. If we can win there it will be good."

De Bruyne had just two Premier League outings for Chelsea during his short spell at Stamford Bridge, when he was signed in January 2012 before being binned.

"I know him," said Hazard. "He is a top player. He didn't get a chance here at Chelsea but he did very well in Germany and since he went to Manchester City, he has been on fire. We play together for Belgium and he is a top, top player."

"Sometimes you don't get a chance to play – the system is different for you and football is not easy."

"But now he is full of confidence. I hope he will have a little less confidence when we play them but we need him to have it for Belgium."

With no European or League Cup fixtures to get in the way, Hazard agrees that having a full week to prepare for league matches has helped in the recent good run.

"It's good, we know that," he confirmed. "We have one week to prepare for games, so at the end of the week we know what to do. In previous years, sometimes all we could do was focus on recovery and you're not ready for the game but it's not the case now."

After Chelsea went behind to Christian Eriksen's superb 11th-minute strike for Spurs, Pedro curled a beauty to bring Blues level on the stroke of half-time before Moses, finding plenty of space at the far post in the 51st minute, ensured all three points. Tottenham still have not won at Stamford Bridge since February 1990.

"We were lucky to score the goal before half-time," said Hazard. "It gave us confidence and in the second half we showed great character, everything different from the first half, and we deserved to win. (Antonio) Conte was quiet at half-time. He just said we had to play more with (Marcos) Alonso and Moses. The second goal is exactly what he wants. Victor scored and we created a couple more chances. We could have scored more but 2-1 was enough to win."

"We have a lot of confidence. We are winning games, we play well, we score goals and we create chances. When it is not Diego or me, there is another one. Everyone is involved and this is the key to the success."

What will he be expecting by way of training this week with Conte?

"Sometimes it's tactical," said the 25-

year-old. "It depends what team we play. We watch some clips, some videos, we do everything to be ready for the weekend."

Will it be a defensive performance at City?

"I don't know, we will see. A few months ago we played Arsenal and didn't play very well. Now the system is different, we will see. We know what to do if we want to win. We will give everything. We will be ready for the game."

Pedro is showing the form that saw him collect three Champions League and five La Liga titles, scoring 99 goals in 320 appearances for Barcelona. As a World Cup and European title winner with Spain as well, great things are expected of the 29-year-old who was born in Tenerife and signed for Blues in August 2015 for £21 million.

None of this is lost on Conte, who lauded Pedro for his performances of late.

"Pedro is playing great football," said Chelsea's Italian coach. "He's enjoying this type of football and showing his quality. It's not easy for me to make the decision between him and Willian but I think he's playing very well and deserved to play. I'm very happy for him and Moses, another player who in pre-season you wouldn't think would be in the starting 11."

"Pedro's in a great moment and he's playing very well. He scored a great goal but he worked a lot for the team. That's what I want to see and it's important to continue in this way. It's also important for us to see Willian (who came on for Hazard after 77 minutes) after a bad period for him."

Conte was fully aware of what this particular derby meant to Chelsea fans and was grateful for their support.

He said: "On Saturday, our fans were very important, they pushed us and supported us a lot during the game. We knew the importance of the game for our fans."

"It was a special game, we haven't lost it (league match against Spurs at home) for 25 years. I know this – and don't forget, Tottenham were unbeaten. This was the first defeat for them and after the game I can say they deserve to arrive before this game unbeaten, they've shown they are a great team."

"It's important for our fans to live the game with great intensity and passion because they can transfer this to the players. Stamford Bridge is perfect if we are able to create the right atmosphere, it's really important for us."

The run of seven straight wins came on the back of terrible defeats to Liverpool and Arsenal, and Conte is surprised at the dramatic change of fortunes.

"I'm really surprised because we won seven games in a row after two bad defeats against Liverpool and Arsenal," he confessed. "It would be very difficult for any team to win seven games in a row in this league because it's really tough. I think we are doing a fantastic job to win seven games in a row."

"I think this league is very strong, you can see every game is very difficult. In this league there are six or seven teams who can fight until the end for the title and the Champions League."

"Don't forget, the Champions League is only for the top four places, so two or three teams have to stay outside."

"Saturday will be a big test because Man City are a fantastic team. But against Spurs, it was a good test for us. Now we are a different team to two months ago. It would have been very difficult to beat Spurs if we were the same team as two months ago."

"I love the mentality of my players. I saw a great attitude and great commitment from all of them. I see the will to change something from the past, now it's important to continue."

"Saturday was about celebrating the win but from now I have to think about the next game."